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NRP considers offering Porat No. 5 slot

By NINA GILBERT and MARGOT DUDKOWITZ

Nahum Langenthal has reportedly offered to give up the No. 5 spot on the National Religious Party list he won earlier this week to veteran MK Hagan Porat.

Langenthal, a first-time candidate who belongs to the party's moderate camp, said last night the matter is still under discussion, and would not confirm or deny that he is willing to agree to such a move.

Party sources said the top six candidates had discussed the matter yesterday, and it was suggested that Langenthal move himself to the No. 6 slot, thereby pushing others down the list. It is unclear whether the No. 8 candidate, Gila Finkelstein, in a slot reserved for a woman, would also move down, or whether the central committee would agree to such a move.

After Porat, a longtime Greater Land of Israel champion, was pushed down to No. 11, the hawkish wing of the NRP was outraged, saying the party had moved to the left. On the other hand, the moderates declared victory, saying it had time to have a balanced Knesset list.

According to one source, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, the leader of the hawkish camp, is spearheading the effort to get Porat moved higher on the list.

"It would have been better if the offer hadn't come," Porat said last night. "What is needed is for the religious Zionist camp to do some soul-searching."

Porat's supporters have warned they will leave the NRP

for other parties if Porat is not moved into a higher position.

The NRP maneuvers follow warnings from leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza that the party could lose support unless Porat and MK Zvi Hendel are moved to more realistic spots. Hendel won the seventh slot, which according to recent polls will not get him elected to the Knesset.

The settlement leaders suggested that Porat could be forced to leave the party and join forces with the smaller right-wing parties - Tekuma, Moledet, and Herut - which are negotiating the establishment of a united front.

Tekuma yesterday called on Porat to join its ranks. "Tekuma is the natural alternative to the NRP," Porat said, his leader, Beit El Mayor Uri Ariel. "Our door is open to him."

Porat could become Tekuma's No. 1, according to Ariel, who noted that the party has not yet picked its list.

Council director-general Ashraf Domb returned from Paris to the afternoon and met with Levy shortly after landing. Domb said he had sent a strong letter to Levy and Transport Minister Shaul Yaalon warning them that if the NRP does not change direction, it will lose support among its voters.

Domb stressed that the next government will be faced with important challenges that will affect the future of the settlements, and national camp followers will be faced with a difficult struggle as pressures, both internal and external, become more intense.

Report: 4 Hizbullah dead

Arens: 'We need to win this war'

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

As the IDF wrapped up its debriefing into the deadly clash which killed three Paratrooper officers early Tuesday, its warplanes and artillery struck Hizbullah targets in south Lebanon, killing four Hizbullah guerrillas, according to SLA sources reported by the Associated Press from Marjayoun.

In the meantime, military sources denied claims by Hizbullah in Beirut that it had observed the Paratrooper Reconnaissance Unit as it entered the security zone early Tuesday and had lain in wait to ambush them.

"This is totally false and just their imagination," said one senior officer.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazy led the debriefing yesterday of the paratroopers who took part in the shootout.

Some of the soldiers said they had been devoting most of their attention to looking for explosive devices and this may have distracted them.

Soldiers in Lebanon are equipped with top-quality ordinance, including night vision goggles capable of detecting distant movement. None of the soldiers apparently detected the guerrillas.

At one point Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz participated in the debriefing, military sources said. Mofaz was escorting Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who received an account of the clash in which three IDF officers died and five soldiers were wounded, while the Hizbullah squad apparently escaped unharmed.

The paratroopers were on a raid north of the security zone to intercept Hizbullah guerrillas on their way south.

The IDF confirmed that one weapon was left behind during the evacuation of casualties. It was apparently this M-16 assault rifle, equipped with a special night scope, which Hizbullah showed off in Beirut along with a bloodied shirt and radio equipment.

"Hizbullah is learning and improving and we, too, are improving and learning and we need to win this war," Arens said following the visit to Northern Command.



IDF paratroopers grieve yesterday at the funeral in Moshav Ramot Naftali of Maj. Eitan Balahsan, commander of the Paratrooper Reconnaissance Unit, who was killed in Tuesday's clash.

Arens reiterated his long-standing opposition to any unilateral redeployment from south Lebanon.

"It's not my opinion that we should withdraw from there unilaterally and start gambling with the lives of our northern residents," Arens said, adding that he had not heard of any other opinion in the inner cabinet. "There are discussions, but an argument like this I haven't heard," Arens said.

In Lebanon, SLA militiamen discovered and dismantled three roadside bombs overnight near the village of Markaba. They had apparently been planted recently and are the type usually activated while being observed by Hizbullah guerrillas.

Markaba lies on a road frequently used by Israeli troops where two IDF soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in

November. The air force, meanwhile, struck again at Hizbullah targets in the central sector of the security zone. Reports from Lebanon said two jets swooped down a valley and fired at least two air-to-surface missiles near Talloussa.

According to Lebanese security officials, the air raid came after Hizbullah guerrillas pounded an SLA outpost near Talloussa and Markaba. IDF and SLA artillery and tanks returned fire.

Hizbullah guerrillas were killed in the barrage and air raid.

But the IDF could not confirm the report. Hizbullah also did not confirm it had suffered any casualties, but it often waits weeks to announce its dead, IDF sources said.

Yesterday thousands of mourners attended the burial of Maj. Eitan Balahsan, the commander

of the Paratrooper Reconnaissance Unit, who was killed in Tuesday's clash.

He was buried on Moshav Ramot Naftali, where he was raised.

Balahsan was to have received a citation for being an outstanding officer from Mofaz on Independence Day.

The condition of four of the soldiers wounded in the clash improved yesterday, said doctors at Haifa's Rambam Hospital. The four were listed in satisfactory condition, and one is now due to be released.

In New York, Ambassador to the UN Dore Gold denied, in a letter circulated yesterday, that Israel had expanded the security zone, saying it had placed barbed wire on the outskirts of one village, Arnoun, because it was being used by Hizbullah.

Gold said the village was

"being exploited by Hizbullah as a forward staging area for terrorist attacks against Israel" and this violated the 1996 Grapes of Wrath understandings.

He also said there should be "no illusions about the terrorist activity that Lebanon openly praises as a purported 'resistance.'" It meant "resistance by means of terror to the very existence of the State of Israel," Gold said.

He reiterated Israel's readiness, first announced last year, to implement all the provisions of a 1978 Security Council resolution calling for its withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

But until Lebanon cooperated with Israel to restore peace and security along their border, Israel "reserves the right to act in its own self-defense in accordance with international law," Gold said.

AP contributed to this report.

Meridor denies plan to join One Israel

By SARAH HONIG

MK Dan Meridor vehemently denied yesterday that he is contemplating leaving the new Center Party and joining the projected Labor-led One Israel bloc.

Sources close to Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak have been insisting for several days that such a deal was suggested to Meridor, and he had agreed to discuss the offer with Barak at a meeting scheduled for Sunday.

Meridor spoke yesterday while on the campaign trail with Center

Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai. The two toured the Arab sector in the North and this was the first time Meridor had joined Mordechai in his electioneering.

Meridor's absence from most of the Center's campaign efforts had been characterized as an indication of his growing frustration.

Meridor, who had long entertained his own prime ministerial ambitions, and left the Likud to start his own campaign for prime minister, reluctantly joined the Center Party and accepted Mordechai in the leadership. But he has since been described as disaffected. He was placed third on the Center's list.

This has led to Labor efforts to offer him a top spot in the One Israel framework. A number of Labor sources insisted last night that the offer had indeed been put to Meridor.

Meridor himself, though, stated that "there have been no contacts with Labor and I will under no circumstances join in any sort of an alliance with Labor."

Meridor, it was explained by a source close to him, "is still too much of a Revisionist to have anything to do with Labor."

Mordechai's Arab hosts yesterday pressed him to guarantee a safe slot on his list to an Arab candidate.

Mordechai and Meridor travelled in a van, decorated with posters of Mordechai, through Nazareth, Zazzir, and Sifaram.

After the tour, Meridor concluded that "Mordechai is likely to get many Arab votes, many more than Labor supposes. The Arab sector is not in Labor's pocket - nor in anyone else's pocket. Labor should not assume that most of the Arab votes will go to Barak in the prime ministerial contest."

Labor fails to clinch Lahiani deal

By SARAH HONIG

No deal was reached yesterday between the Labor Party and all those it wishes to recruit to its cause under the One Israel banner.

Intensive negotiations were not concluded with Bat Yam contractor Shlomi Lahiani, David Levy's Geshet, or Meimad.

The difficulty in all three cases was identical - the slots to be allotted on the One Israel bloc's list. All those who would receive reserved slots on the list, would push down Laborites, whose own party would be reduced to the rank of a component in the new bloc, albeit the major one.

Labor's negotiators had begun the intensive round of bargaining resolved that no more than three or four slots in the first 30 would be reserved for outsiders. However, all of Labor's would-be partners have far greater ambitions.

Lahiani summed up his position last night, when he declared that "no one is doing anyone a favor."

He spoke at a gathering of several hundred supporters in a Bat Yam wedding hall, where he launched his new "movement" - Dor Hadash (a new generation).

To qualify for entry into the One Israel framework, Lahiani, who narrowly failed to win the Bat Yam mayoralty last November, must show that he heads a faction of sorts. So he went through the motions of sending one up in an hour-long gathering, which drew a

disappointing turnout and ended as soon as he finished his speech.

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak had initially offered Lahiani the 11th slot. This, however, raised an uproar in Labor, where veteran politicians were about to be pushed back for a total unknown whose actual potential to bring in thousands of new voters cannot be proven.

Barak, therefore, amended his original proposal and told Lahiani that he will only get the 34th slot. The two met at party headquarters in Tel Aviv. The meeting ended inconclusively and the sides agreed only to tell reporters that "things will be worked out."

Lahiani expressed confidence that he will join One Israel but his rank will have to be determined "only when the negotiations finish sometime next week."

Barak, who was supposed to attend the birth of Lahiani's new political entity, significantly stayed away.

At this point, the Labor line is that Lahiani will prove his worth if he can bring enough votes to elect himself to the 34th slot. Currently Labor has 34 Knesset seats, but the expectations are that both large parties will lose seats.

Barak also met with Levy, who was told that he is assured of One Israel's third slot, but that he could only get one more slot for another Geshet member. Levy insists on two more slots in the top 30.

A possible deal would involve giving MK Yehuda Lankri a rela-

tively high slot and fitting Levy's brother Maxim somewhat lower on the list, with the understanding that after the elections Lankri would resign his Knesset seat and would be appointed ambassador, preferably to France.

If this works out, Barak could claim that he sacrificed only two slots for Geshet, while Levy could claim that he had secured three.

The hitch, according to Levy, is that Barak cannot guarantee an ambassadorship for Lankri. "What if you don't win?" Levy is reported to have asked Barak pointedly.

He therefore said that he would not be able to guarantee that Lankri would relinquish his Knesset seat immediately after the elections.

In addition, Levy was not happy with what was offered Maxim and is demanding a higher slot.

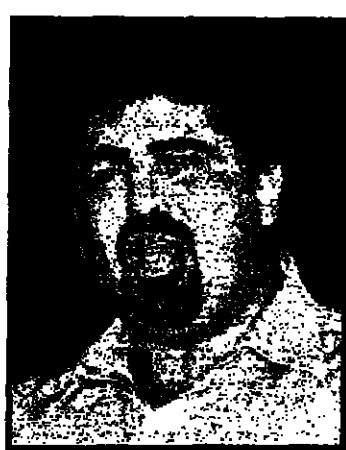
Meimad negotiators, who also met with Barak, want two safe slots and a firm promise for "an executive post," which is taken to mean a cabinet portfolio. Labor Party sources report that Meimad

demand Education.

So far Barak and the other Labor negotiators have told their interlocutors that they have little choice but to accept Labor's conditions, because the polls indicate that none of them stands any chance of crossing the Knesset threshold.

This led Tzvi Reshef, now in 30th place, to "question the wisdom of taking on outsiders whose ability to increase our Knesset representation is doubtful, considering that none of them could get himself elected. We should ask them to run on their own, win actual Knesset seats, and then form

alliances with us." He and other backbenchers and lower-ranking Knesset candidates met yesterday to formulate a joint policy on opposing the One Israel scheme. MK Eitan Cabel (28th) charged that "Barak has lost all sense of proportion. The criterion as to whether Lahiani can save Labor is whether or not he can fill a Bat Yam wedding hall? How absurd can you get?"



Shlomi Lahiani (Mati Milstein/Israel Sun)

Erekat blasts legalization of Arutz 7

By BEN LYMFELD

Leading Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat yesterday blasted the Knesset's decision to legalize Arutz 7, the settlers' pirate radio station, terming it a blow to reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

"This station does nothing except incite against the peace process, the Palestinian Authority,

and the Palestinians. The decision reflects an ugly step against reconciliation," he said.

He added that the move came just days in advance of a scheduled meeting in Washington of an American-Israeli-Palestinian committee against incitement.

Erekat said that the committee is due to discuss a proposal to have Israeli journalists write articles for Palestinian newspapers and vice versa.

See EREKAT, Page 3

2 soldiers injured in explosion

Two soldiers were seriously injured yesterday in an explosion at a base in the center of the country. The soldiers were hospitalized and their families were notified, the army said.

According to Jinn, the soldiers suffered serious wounds to the hands and face.

Military sources said it appeared to be a work accident. The IDF has opened an investigation into the mishap.

Arieh O'Sullivan



NEWS

in brief

Israeli guard accidentally wounded in Amman

An Israeli security guard in the embassy in Jordan was injured yesterday after being hit by a stray bullet, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "We have an injured person at the embassy in Amman. It was an accident. He was taken to hospital," said spokesman Efi Ben-Matityahu.

Israel Radio said that an Israeli surgeon was taken to Amman to treat the guard. A ministry official said the guard was injured after an embassy employee accidentally fired a bullet during a routine drill. A security source said the guard's condition was severe but stable. "It was a mistake... a miserable accident," an Israeli diplomat in Amman said. He said the incident took place around 9 p.m. *Reuters*

US, British warplanes attack targets in Iraq

US and British warplanes attacked targets on the outskirts of Baghdad, the Iraqi armed forces said last night. The Iraqi Information Ministry accused the warplanes of flying north some 20 kilometers beyond the "no-fly" zone, which the Western allies patrol over southern Iraq. The US military said its planes had attacked Iraqi air defense sites at a town on the edge of the "no-fly" zone, south of Baghdad. Neither the Iraqi armed forces nor the Information Ministry gave precise numbers of casualties and it was not possible to confirm the reports independently. *AP*

Sheetrit tackles wage agreements first

New Finance Minister Meir Sheetrit said yesterday that the first, and most important, issue he will deal with is the wage agreement between the Treasury and the Histadrut for 1998-2000. He held several discussions on the subject yesterday, including one with his director-general who was in charge of the negotiations last year. The budget director warned him the agreement had far-reaching implications. *Itim*

Brazilian predicted attack in Argentina

Argentine investigators have asked Brazil to find out how a man it is holding on false document charges was able to predict a 1994 bombing which killed 86 people in the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires. In a document obtained by Reuters yesterday, investigating Judge Juan Jose Galeano asked Brazil's Supreme Court to establish how Wilson Dos Santos knew of the attack, and whether he was linked to the Brazilian secret service. Dos Santos presented himself at Argentine, Israeli and Brazilian consulates in Italy in the weeks before the bombing of the AMLA center in July 1994 and told skeptical officials that an anti-Jewish attack was being planned in Argentina. *Reuters*

IDF to issue special ID to combat soldiers

The IDF has decided to issue a "Combat Card" to all soldiers serving in combat units. The cards will be handed out on Independence Day and will entitle combat soldiers to benefits and discounts. While the exact benefits have yet to be finalized, they are expected to include discounts at films, restaurants, and shops as well as priority for government loans and grants. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Attorney-general meets with Shas kabbalist

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein met Monday with Shas kabbalist Rabbi David Batzi, said Batzi's son, Yitzhak, in an Army Radio interview yesterday.

Yitzhak Batzi said he heard Rubinstein was making a condolence call at a colleague's home near his father's yeshiva in Jerusalem, and persuaded him to come and meet him. Rubinstein agreed, and conversed with the kabbalist for close to an hour about recent tensions between the religious and secular. *Itim*

Report: Mossad working closely with Turkey

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Reports in London, to be published today, claim that the Mossad has significantly expanded its intelligence base in Turkey as a result of exceptionally close cooperation between Jerusalem and Ankara.

Intelligence cooperation between the Mossad and its Turkish equivalent, MIT, was enshrined in a 12-clause agreement that was signed during a 1993 visit to Israel by then-Turkish foreign minister Hikmet Cetin.

Soon after, according to the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*, a large Mossad operation was established in Turkey, with Mossad agents based in both Istanbul and Ankara.

This was not the first time that the Mossad had operated in Turkey, noted the newsletter, but it was the first time that it had received full cooperation.

So good was the cooperation, it continued, that the Mossad expanded its presence by opening branches

in Turkey of two departments located in Tel Aviv.

They were "Tevel," which handles cooperation with friendly foreign organizations, and "Tzomet," which is responsible for recruiting Arab agents.

According to the newsletter, Israeli anti-terrorism experts were asked to help the Turks block their border with Iraq to prevent penetration by PKK terrorists.

Mossad officers worked with MIT and gave their Turkish colleagues raw information about the PKK, it says. "Suddenly, it was much easier for the Mossad to infiltrate Iran and Syria."

The newsletter concedes it has no information that the Mossad tipped off MIT about PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan's presence in Kenya, but despite the denial by Mossad head Efraim Halevy, it asserted that "the level of probability must be high."

"We have been told," it added, "that during the odyssey leading up to Ocalan's capture, Mossad agents had at times been tailing him."

Thousands of Kurds march peacefully to honor Berlin dead

By ERIC TRUMP

BERLIN (AP) - Watched over by a massive police deployment, thousands of demonstrators marched peacefully through Berlin yesterday to honor three young Kurds killed a week ago during protests over the capture of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

About 8,500 people followed two silver hearses decorated with flowers and carrying the coffins of Sema Alp, 18; Ahmet Acac, 24; and Mustafa Kurt, 29, all from Berlin.

They were shot February 17 by Israeli security men while trying to storm the Israeli Consulate - reportedly in response to rumors that Israeli agents had helped Turkey trace the rebel leader to

Kenya, where he was arrested on February 15.

Israel has denied any involvement in Ocalan's capture, but many of the marchers chanted "Israel - terrorist" as they moved through snowy central Berlin carrying poster-sized pictures of the three victims and of Ocalan.

"The murderers have to be judged," read one poster. "Each of us is an Ocalan," read another. Many called for Ocalan to be released, and attacked the US and Germany for supporting Turkey.

Many people carried red roses as they walked, accompanied by traditional music from sound trucks. Kurdish groups from around Germany displayed their banners.

"The abduction of Ocalan has brought Kurds closer together," said Mohammed Ghazi, an Iranian

Kurd who came to Berlin from Hamburg.

About 3,500 police were deployed to prevent violence, and organizers also called on marchers to remain peaceful. Police said 47 people were detained, mostly for displaying symbols of Ocalan's Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is banned in Germany, or for carrying sticks or other potential weapons.

At one point, occupants of an apartment house in the heavily Turkish neighborhood tossed something onto the passing crowd and a few marchers responded by throwing stones and rushing the building. But police blocked them from entering and the demonstrators eventually rejoined the parade.

The march ended peacefully after about four hours.

Berlin officials had banned all demonstrations last weekend, fearing violence, but agreed to allow the funeral march to proceed.

"I understand that many Kurds and friends of Kurds, who can't be automatically classified as extremist or prone to violence, wish to publicly express their sorrow over the death of their countrymen," said Berlin's Interior Minister Eckart Werthebach.

The bodies of the three killed were to be flown to Turkey for burial today. Some 29 other Kurds involved in the storming of the consulate face charges including causing bodily harm.

Despite the wave of violence that spread over German cities last week following Ocalan's arrest, federal chief prosecutor Kay Nehm refused yesterday to reclass-

sify the PKK from criminal to terrorist organization. Nehm said there is no evidence that the arson and hostage-takings were centrally directed.

Douglas Davis adds from London:

About 150 PKK supporters staged a two-hour demonstration near the Israeli Embassy in London yesterday.

The demonstration was timed to mark the burial of two of the three PKK followers who were shot dead while attempting to storm the Israeli consulate in Berlin.

The heightened British security presence prevented the main body of demonstrators from coming to within 150 meters of the embassy, although a five-person delegation was allowed to approach the gates of the embassy and lay a wreath.

Syria scorns PM's demand on Lebanon attacks

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syria's press yesterday poured scorn on a call by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu urging Damascus to stop attacks by Hizbullah fighters on IDF troops in south Lebanon.

The *Tishreen* daily said fighting the Israeli occupation was "a legitimate action" and advised Netanyahu to pull out his forces from Lebanon "to ensure real security for Israel."

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon with some 35,000 troops, "will not submit to occupation and will use all its resources to liberate" the Golan Heights as well as south Lebanon, it said.

"Israel has no choice either today or tomorrow except to withdraw unconditionally from south Lebanon and the Golan and to commit itself to a just and comprehensive peace," *Tishreen* said.

"It is possible for Israel to reach an honorable solution through serious talks with Syria and Lebanon." Three soldiers were killed and five wounded in clashes with Hizbullah on Monday.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Netanyahu said: "It's clear that if Syria wanted to stop these attacks it has the power to do so. We expect them to curtail aggression against Israel." Israel would withdraw if it could be sure that the Lebanese army would take control, he said. But *Tishreen* said: "If Israel wants to withdraw from south Lebanon the way is open for that. Nobody will block its move... All Lebanese and Arabs will welcome such a withdrawal."



Hizbullah gunmen, their faces deliberately obscured with mud, proudly display a bloody IDF shirt on Tuesday in a cave near the Lebanese village of Masghara. The shirt was captured in the clash which left three IDF Paratroop officers dead. *(AP)*

Germany offers dialogue about Gypsy slave workers

BONN (AP) - Responding to a threat of new lawsuits against German firms, the government said yesterday it will open a dialogue with Gypsy representatives about reparations for Nazi-era slave laborers.

Germany's Sinti and Roma, as Gypsies are known here, are complaining that they have not been consulted as government and industry set up a fund to compensate people forced to work by the Nazis. Part of the aim is to settle US lawsuits against German companies.

Romani Rose, head of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, said Tuesday his group would seek to join pending class-action lawsuits in the US on behalf of Gypsy victims, unless it is included in the fund's planned board of trustees.

He indicated concern that the government is giving precedence to Jewish claims. In reply, spokeswoman Charima Reinhardt said that "the government will establish a working-level contact" with the council. She refused to elaborate.

Twelve German companies, including major banks, pharmaceutical and engineering firms, agreed with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder last week to launch the fund by September 1. About half a million Gypsies from all over Europe died in the Holocaust.

Report: King Abdullah has curtailed former crown prince Hassan's political role

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Jordanian King Abdullah II is understood to have restricted the duties of Prince Hassan to chairing the national Higher Council for Science and Technology, apparently shutting the door to any political ambitions the former heir-apparent might have harbored.

In a report from Amman Tuesday, the London-based Saudi daily *Al-Hayat* said the decision was communicated in a recent letter from Abdullah to Hassan soon after the new king announced the reshuffle of senior military personnel, his first major executive act since assuming the throne on February 7.

In the letter - addressed to "Dear Uncle" - Abdullah asked Hassan to devote his efforts to the Higher Council for Science and Technology, using his wisdom and knowledge to improve its performance.

According to the London-based paper, this has "sealed the political future" of Hassan, dashing expectations among those close to Hassan that he might be offered a role in foreign policy affairs or in final-status talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Political circles in Amman were quoted as

saying they regard the letter as tantamount to "the practical implementation of [the late King] Hussein's letter dismissing his brother as heir apparent." Hussein had rebuked Hassan for his conduct in state and family matters, but thanked him for his "achievements in the developmental, educational, intellectual, scientific, youth and environmental domains," assuring him that he would "remain close to me as a brother, expert, intellectual and holder of opinions."

Abdullah appeared to echo these sentiments when he praised Hassan's role in setting up a number of scientific institutions and think-tanks "with the support and guidance" of Hussein.

He also told his uncle he would like to meet him regularly to stay apprised of his activities and plans.

The paper said that while Hassan had been expected to be assigned major political tasks, Abdullah has now signalled that he is capable of taking charge of both the army and other institutions of the state.

Abdullah's letter to Hassan was sent after Crown Prince Hamza returned to Sandhurst military academy in Britain, where he had broken off his studies to attend his father's funeral

and receive condolences with other members of the Hashemite royal family.

The Higher Council for Science and Technology, whose status was defined by law in 1987, is an umbrella organization for a number of scientific institutions and think tanks set up by Hassan while he was crown prince.

"It oversees five major institutions, the largest of which is the Royal Scientific Society, which deals with technological, industrial and environmental issues and employs nearly 1,000 people. The other four are the National Center for the Development of Human Resources, the National Data Center, the Diplomatic Academy, and the National Center for Diabetes, Endocrine Glands and Hereditary Diseases."

In addition, Hassan is expected to continue chairing a number of other bodies not affiliated with the council, such as the Arab Youth Forum and the Arab Thought Forum, after the necessary changes are made to reflect the fact that he is now "Prince Hassan," not "The Crown Prince." Major changes are also anticipated in Hassan's office, where the current staff of around 70 is expected to be severely curtailed.

Monitor of PA media pulled from Washington meeting

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon quashed a public appearance here yesterday by an Israeli delegate who is participating in a bilateral committee investigating alleged Palestinian incitement.

Organizers of an event at a House of Representatives conference room explained Itamar Marcus' absence as his having to rush off to planning meetings in advance of today's trilateral gathering. But minutes earlier, Marcus, director of the Palestinian Media Watch, was seen chatting in the room with several event organizers and congressional aides.

Just before Marcus was to appear with five congressmen to discuss Palestinian anti-Israeli and anti-semitic canards, an aide to ambassador Zalman Shoval told Marcus that Sharon had ordered him to skip the meeting.

Asked why Marcus was pulled from the program, an embassy official said: "Why? Because he

has work to do here. He's part of an official delegation. The embassy found out he was doing several things in town and reported it back to the foreign ministry. When the foreign minister found out about this press conference [occurring] on the eve of the meeting, he made the determination that this should not happen, that this is something that can harm US-Israeli relations."

"We have a very serious meeting [today] and this meeting is a very damaging thing. We're supposed to be sitting and talking to the Americans and Palestinians [today] and we're not supposed to be going out publicly talking about it. So the ambassador and the embassy basically made sure this guy would not participate in the press conference."

Nelanyahu also took part in the decision on Marcus, the official added.

Marcus preferred not to discuss the matter, saying that "I don't want the issue of my not being there to be the issue."

Outside the room, Marcus laid out copies of his new report,

"Promoting Hatred: The Systematic Use of Lies in the Palestinian Media," that includes a section on the Palestinian media since the signing of the Wye Memorandum. The report reprinted a February 18 crossword puzzle in *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, the PA's daily newspaper, with the clue being "Jewish center for eternalizing the Holocaust and the lies," and the answer, "Yad Vashem."

Republican congressman Michael Forbes, who spoke at the press conference, called the Palestinian record in complying with the Wye accord "a hoax," and said the PLO leadership continues talking about the destruction of Israel.

Steve Rothman, a Democrat, said the cases of Palestinian incitement "make me and other supporters of the peace process question just what the true intentions of the PA are."

The committee, established with the signing of the Wye Memorandum, has met seven times in the region but is convening in Washington for the first time. The Palestinian delegation is led by PA chairman Yasser Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kamafani. Among the American participants is the former president of the University of Notre Dame, Father Theodore Hesburgh.

With great sorrow we announce the passing of

Dr. EMIL LEHMAN

An outstanding, creative educator and author.

Founder and long-time Director of the

Theodor Herzl Institute in New York.

He left his mark on all who knew him.

Petty Lehman
Tami, Sam, Boaz and
Avihai Lehman-Wilzig



The Jewish Agency for Israel



World Zionist Organization

We mourn with Michal Modai

on the passing of her sister

RACHEL BASKIN

and send condolences to her family

Avraham Burg
Chairman of the Executive

Sallai Meridor
Treasurer

Charles (Corky) Goodman
Chairman of the Board of Governors

هكذا من الأصل

Elections

'A party of women' formed

By NERI J. GLEIT

Tired of being in the political back seat, a group of veteran feminist activists announced yesterday in Tel Aviv that a new party is running for the Knesset - Yitzug Shaveh (Equal Representation), the Women's Party.

Its leaders include Ofra Meyerson, who is perhaps better known as the left-wing wife of Tsomet chairman Rafael Eitan than for being a member of the Jerusalem city council.

Despite their different political stances, her husband supports her bid for the Knesset, Meyerson said.

Former Na'amat head Ofra Friedman explained that women first had tried to effect change via extra-parliamentary groups, and when that failed, unsuccessfully tried to work within the established parties. Though she originally opposed the idea of a women's party, Friedman said, it now seems like the only option.

Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal took exception to this, saying, "It's chutzpa to say that women in the parties... were unsuccessful in these issues."

"In the previous term and in this term [we have made progress] by forming the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women and in passing legislation beneficial to women. All of the issues, such as fighting violence against women, have moved forward."

While she thinks it is important that a women's party run and believes that there are not enough female MKs, Blumenthal said she doesn't think it has a chance of succeeding. The issue isn't high enough on Israel's list of priorities for such a party to succeed.

Labor MK Yael Dayan concurred, saying, "I'll be very happy if it improves women's situation in the Knesset... [but] single-issue parties usually don't succeed."

"I'm not for single-issue parties. I want a party that's for a Palestinian state and for economic and social affairs and for women."

"Of course, there's a need for equal representation," she added,



At yesterday's Tel Aviv press conference announcing the launching of Yitzug Shaveh, the Women's Party, are (from left) Esther Hertzog, Samia Shahada, Bella Freund, Tova Markovitch, Ofra Meyerson, and Adina Katz.

wishing the women's party good luck.

In detailing Yitzug Shaveh's platform, Dr. Esther Hertzog, a sociology and anthropology professor who ran for the Knesset in the last election with a women's party that failed to pass the voting threshold, insisted it would not be a single-issue party. In addition to issues such as equality and reducing violence against women, the party supports the peace process and the Wye River Memorandum, advocates a withdrawal from the Golan, and opposes religious coercion, she said.

The party represents all women, she emphasized, and its leaders include Bella Freund, who is

ELECTIONS

notebook

Katz seeks Katsav's ouster as Likud chief

Likud MK Yisrael Katz is demanding Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav be replaced as the head of the Likud election campaign headquarters and said yesterday he would not cooperate with him. Katz accused Katsav of bringing personal considerations into his work. There has been tension between Katz and Katsav since the Likud primary elections. Meanwhile, supporters of Science Minister Silvan Shalom are trying to pressure Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu into appointing him to a senior Cabinet position. The move came after Meir Sheetrit was appointed Finance Minister, a position Shalom had openly sought. Supporters in Beersheba, Shalom's hometown, have reportedly threatened to close down the local Likud branch until Shalom is given a better position.

Liat Collins

Shas prepares religious campaign handouts

Shas is scheduled to hold a gathering of supporters in Jerusalem this afternoon gearing up for the election campaign. The party will not hand out amulets and charms this year, but plans to distribute material related to the Jewish holidays such as a Megillat Esther for Purim with a dedication from spiritual mentor Ovadia Yosef and party leader Aryeh Deri. The party list will be determined by the Council of Torah Sages at a later date.

Liat Collins

Shinui and Yitzug Shaveh vie for party acronym

Shinui said yesterday it would submit to the elections board its opposition to the use by the women's party Yitzug Shaveh of the acronym, "yesh," since the two Hebrew letters involved are also Shinui's election symbol. Shinui said that it last used the symbol in the municipal elections in November, and that it could be misleading to voters to let another party use the same letters. Yitzug Shaveh means "equal representation."

Itin

Re'em announces he will not run for Knesset

MK David Re'em announced last night that he would not run for a seat in the next Knesset. Re'em, who left the Likud for Ze'ev (Benny) Begin's Herut Party, said he decided to withdraw because he would not want to be seen as making personal use of a mandate taken from the Likud. He said he will endorse Begin, who had offered him the No. 3 spot in Herut, "because of his honesty."

He also noted that he could not stay in the Likud due to the leadership of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, despite his loyalty to the party. On Tuesday, the House Committee approved the split of Begin, Michael Kleiner and Re'em from Likud.

Re'em said he would not renege on this decision, that he would be leaving politics and may go into business. A former mayor of Kiryat Ata, Re'em has been an MK since 1996.

Nina Gilbert

Likud candidates in low slots weigh court appeal

By NERI J. GLEIT

Four former MKs and one Likud candidate who feel they have been placed in unfairly low slots on the Likud list told Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday that should the internal Likud tribunal discussing their appeal not rule in their favor, they would take their case to district court.

The former MKs, Yossi Ahimeir, David Mena, Esther Salmovitz and Michael Razon, were joined by candidate Avi Ben-Avraham in their meeting with Netanyahu.

"All we are asking is for justice and for the placement on the lists to reflect the will of the Likud central committee members who elected us," said Ahimeir.

Their complaint focuses on the way the list was drawn up. According to the system used, if a sector or minority group representative got in higher than the reserved slot, the reserved slot was canceled and everyone further down the list moved up.

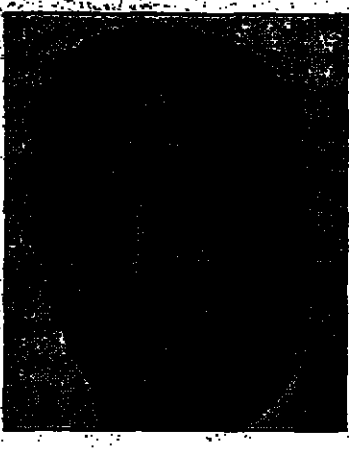
Ahimeir said only those below who were not running for reserved slots should have moved up and those running for reserved places should have remained in the predetermined slots. He said their appeal is based on the system, as it appears in the Likud Party Rules.

Ahimeir noted that he came in the 30th slot with some 570 votes while student Liat Rabner came in the 29th position with some 170 votes because the woman's slot she was running on was moved up several times.

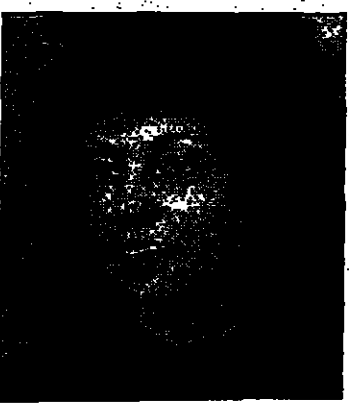
Ahimeir said he believes he should be in the 21st slot.

Mena and Ben-Avraham got the 27th and 28th positions respectively and Razon the 31st. Salmovitch did not make it into the top 35.

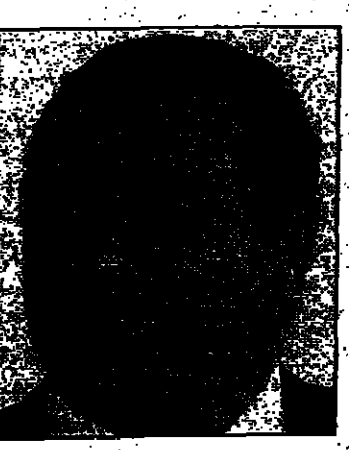
Ahimeir said Netanyahu listened to their complaint but did not comment on it and they are now waiting for the results of the Likud tribunal in the coming days.



Yossi Ahimeir (Isaac Harari)



David Mena (Scoop 80)



Esther Salmovitch

Yisrael Ba'aliya tries to widen its appeal

By NERI J. GLEIT

"You don't have to be Russian to vote Yisrael Ba'aliya," Yuli Edelstein said when the party opened its election campaign by introducing its candidates to the media in Tel Aviv's Beit Sokolov yesterday.

A special campaign staff has been formed to reach out to immigrants from English-speaking countries, native Israelis, and veteran Russians who have been here for 20 years or more, said Edelstein, who is heading the campaign and is number two on the party list.

These groups will support Yisrael Ba'aliya, party leader Natan Sharansky said, because helping new immigrants integrate into Israeli society will ultimately benefit them all.

A number of the issues the party advocates - affordable housing, eradicating unemployment, improving education - are issues that interest the entire population, he added.

Since winning seven seats in the 1996 elections, Yisrael Ba'aliya has brought about a "quiet revolution," Sharansky said, by working quietly behind the scenes to effect lasting changes instead of angling for headlines. For example, the image the Israeli public has of Russian immigrants has greatly improved, he said, and the newspapers are no longer full of headlines about Russian prostitutes and criminals.

The party, which aims to win 15 seats, is confident that its achievements will attract new voters in addition to convincing voters not to switch to one of the other immigrant parties.

"We guard the interests of new immigrants more than any other party,"



Yisrael Ba'aliya leader Natan Sharansky (right) speaks with party No. 3 MK Roman Bronfman at the party's campaign kick-off press conference in Tel Aviv's Beit Sokolov yesterday.

Edelstein said. However, he added, he expects Labor and Likud to put much more effort into attracting immigrants' votes than in the last election, when they didn't take Yisrael Ba'aliya seriously and were surprised by its success.

EREKAT

Continued from Page 1

"It is making peace with this government meaningless because the crux of peace is reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis. You don't achieve that through such stations."

Arab MKs, meanwhile, strongly disputed portrayals of the Knesset vote by settler leaders as a victory for freedom of speech.

"I think we are giving them prizes for breaking the law," said Abdel Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party). "The government is taking a step towards the extremists and, in the long run, it will bring serious damage to Israeli society and the image of Israel."

Azmi Bishara (Hadash-Balad) said the law was made to solve one or two cases rather than the overall issue of pirate radio stations. He said that it would not legalize any of the more than 10 unlicensed stations run by Arabs, an assessment not shared by Darawshe.

"This is not a case of discrimination against Arabs," Bishara said. "It is a case of legalizing what was done illegally by radical right-wing activists who violated the law on a national scale."

Bishara said that Arutz 7 staffers began asking him for interviews in recent months, as the station came under increasing scrutiny. "I never accepted an interview, although they were trying to create a more balanced image for themselves."

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Michal Modai
President World WIZO

Helena Glaser
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ON THE RECORD

What is needed is for the religious Zionist camp to do some soul-searching - NRP MK Haim Porat.

Barak has lost all sense of proportion. The criterion as to whether Likud can save Labor is whether or not he can fill a Bar Yom wedding hall? How absurd can you get? - Labor MK Eitan Cabel.

No one is doing anyone a favor - Shlomi Lahiani.

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Communications Ministry to continue fight against pirate radio

By JUDY SEGEL

Following the Knesset's legalization of Arutz 7, the Communications Ministry is not contemplating the dismantling of its unit to catch pirate radio operators.

"The opposite of true; we've even bought a well-equipped new van," ministry spokeswoman Ayala Bar said yesterday.

The process of legalizing the settlers' pirate station, whose directors are on trial for allegedly broadcasting illegally from the land, "is a long one," Bar said.

Zvi Hauser, chairman of the Broadcasting Regulatory Administration, said that there are more than 100 pirate radio stations around the country competing for a very small number of frequencies.

"As a civil servant, I am responsible for carrying out what the Knesset legislates," he said, adding that he couldn't predict the results of a High Court of Justice examination of Hende's initiative.

He did say that the ministry amendment, which will allow cable TV stations to broadcast news programs, "was the major

innovation, and we had been working on it for a year. One can't prevent TV stations from producing news shows, even though that was the law in effect until now."

Meanwhile, Dr. Daniel Tropper, chairman of the Geshet movement for bringing secular and religious Jews closer together, regretted yesterday's publication by his public relations man of a survey the movement sponsored last October to gauge public support for legalizing Arutz 7.

"I probably wouldn't have issued it at this time," he said, adding that he has come out pub-

licly against the pirate radio station and criticized its "broadcasting incitement against Yitzhak Rabin."

The poll, conducted by Tel Aviv University Prof. Efi Ya'ar (formerly of Modi'in Ezrahi), found that 52.4 percent of the public supported legalizing Arutz 7, while 32.9 percent opposed it, and 14.7 percent did not respond. The representative sample of 504 Jewish adults (with a margin of error of $\pm 4.5\%$) found that religious and traditional Jews were more likely to support legalization than secular Jews.

The survey, whose results were

released by public relations man Yisrael Cohen without consulting Tropper, was taken before the current trial of Arutz 7 heads began.

"What I noticed when I first saw the survey was that it showed the public is fundamentally fair, in that it thought the views expressed by the radio channel had the right to be voiced," Tropper said, but he added that "the timing" of publication was not wise, especially since Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein had strongly attacked the Knesset amendment and called it indefensible in the High Court.

Critics: Legalizing Arutz 7 encourages radio piracy

By DAN LIZENBERG

There are more than 100 pirate radio stations operating in the country, including 40 haredi stations, most of which identify themselves with Shas, Yitzhar Be'er, the director-general of Keshet, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Keshet is a non-profit watchdog organization that gathers information on individuals and institutions allegedly threatening democracy. It was established by a group of public figures including Yitzhar Be'er and Hebrew University philosophy professor and Peace Now activist Avishai Margalit.

Be'er said none of these stations qualify for state recognition according to the criteria of the law passed by the Knesset on Monday to legalize Arutz 7. However, he predicted that many of them would be granted licenses if the High Court of Justice rejects the petitions submitted earlier this week by three opposition MKs against the law. "It will be harder to prove that these stations were not broadcasting than it has been to prove that they were broadcasting," said Be'er.

Meanwhile, one of the petitioners, MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz), said that the MKs who voted for the law did not realize that by doing so, they would be legalizing several pirate Palestinian stations, including some that broadcast anti-Israel incitement.

Rubinstein blasted the Labor

Party leadership for failing to show up for Monday's vote, in which the law was approved by 40 votes to 30. "They're afraid," said Rubinstein of the Labor Party leadership, singling out chairman Ehud Barak and former prime minister Shimon Peres. "They ran away from the battle."

Rubinstein and MK Haim Oron (Meretz) submitted one petition to the high court and MK Eitan Cabel (Labor), the other. They also asked the court for an interim injunction to halt the procedures for putting the law into effect until the court rules on their request to overrule the Knesset and nullify the law.

Supreme Court Justice Dorit Beinisch scheduled a hearing for the petitions next Monday. In their petition, Rubinstein and Oron argued that the law violates the two constitutional laws, the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom of Occupation. The law causes "extremely serious injury to the principle of equality and fair competition among those wishing to obtain a license from the state," the petitioners wrote.

They added: "Those who observed the law and refrained from broadcasting without legal permission find themselves losing out while the perennial transgressor gains a short cut, and receives permission without having to meet any criteria other than that of the length of time he has been breaking the law."

Peace Now protests at Goldstein's grave

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

Peace Now will hold a protest this morning at Baruch Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba, calling for the removal of the memorial there.

Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Yaari, charged it was inconceivable that a law to this effect passed by the Knesset in June has not been enforced. In addition, the movement called on Defense Minister Moshe Arens to remove the shrine that was built in the memory of the "murderer Goldstein."

In October, in response to a petition by Goldstein's parents, the High Court of Justice postponed a decision to dismantle the memorial. At the same time, MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) petitioned the court asking that it order defense minister Yitzhak Mordechai to enforce the law preventing the setting up of tombstones on the graves of terrorists and to destroy the Goldstein memorial.

Cohen said he had asked Mordechai several times to act against the shrine, but that nothing had been done. He therefore felt obliged to turn to the court.

Three days ago, the High Court decided that a compromise should be reached on the petition submitted by Goldstein's parents, who want the gravesite to remain as is.

MK a-Sanaa to visit Iraq

By NINA GILBERT

MK Taleb a-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) said yesterday that he and Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, are planning to visit Iraq and its leader Saddam Hussein to express their solidarity with the country "in the face of American aggression."

A PA official in Iraq is working on coordinating the visit, and a-Sanaa said he hopes the trip will take place in the next few weeks.

MK Nissan Slomiansky (National Religious Party) has filed a complaint against a-Sanaa with Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, saying the meeting would be a violation of the law banning contact with enemy countries.

A-Sanaa responded by saying that "enemy" is an incorrect definition for Iraq, which he said has not attacked Israeli territory. "I have a right to make a connection with the people of Iraq as a citizen of Israel," he said. "I am not interested in what the extreme right has to say. It is against the peace process. These people live in the past and are hurting peace by establishing settlements," he added.



A group of Meretz youths on a sailboat protest yesterday alongside 'Eretz Hazvi,' the broadcast ship of the newly legalized Arutz 7 radio station, still anchored off Tel Aviv in international waters. The group's banners read: 'Meretz - Protecting Democracy.' (Mati Mischel/Israel Sun)

Meretz youths protest Arutz 7 at sea

By NINA GILBERT

A group of Meretz youths traveled an hour by boat to protest yesterday alongside the Arutz 7 radio broadcast ship, still anchored in international waters in the Mediterranean sea.

Bearing signs reading "Defending Democracy," the youths, who came in two sailboats, protested against the legalization of the pirate station Arutz 7 by the Knesset on

Tuesday. They also called out that they would not allow the "rule of law to be ruled out."

An activist on the boat told Israel Radio that the boat trip "is just the beginning. We will take action. We have to show that we are not weaklings. We'll work like they did and make some balance here. If the Labor Party is not helping us, then who will take action?"

Meretz and Labor MKs have petitioned the High Court of Justice against the legalization of the station and other pirate stations which

have been operating nationwide for five years.

Meanwhile, Meretz MK Ran Cohen yesterday blamed Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak for enabling the law to be passed. A large number of Labor MKs were absent from the vote. "If it wasn't bad enough that the right-wing settlers coalition is ruining the rule of law and giving a prize to a station that incites and rebels, the Labor Party and its leader have a hand in it," Cohen said.

Disabled women must fail housewife test to win NII payments

The bed is unmade, the bread is unsliced, the potatoes are unpeeled, and Penina Muchtar is all apologies.

"I can't do any of these tasks," the distraught 47-year-old housewife said, gesturing toward the little room that serves as a simulated kitchen, bedroom, and laundry room.

Medical records showing she can't bend, sit, or stand for very long are not enough to get her a disability pension.

Suffering from spinal surgery, she must fail a series of government-designed housewife tests to prove that she can no longer manage her home.

Women who have run the gauntlet of buckets, bed sheets and bottle washing call it humiliating, but the National Insurance Institute

says there's no other way to test the claims.

The ordeal has prompted debate in the media about bureaucratic excesses.

The 18 household chores include making a cup of tea, slicing bread, washing and ironing laundry (including hand-washable delicates), sweeping and mopping the floor, and cleaning out closets.

Up to three officials watch closely, grading speed, confidence, and expertise. The results are assessed by a team of doctors and occupational therapists. Medical records and a physical examination are also used.

Leah Mann, who suffers from mental illness, took the test 20 years ago as a condition of receiving a monthly stipend of approximately NIS 1,600.

"They threw sand on the floor and asked me to sweep it up," she recalled. "It was as though I had to show how badly off I was to get some kind of security."

Officials at the NII defend the test as "progressive," saying that each year it compensates 12,500 non-working disabled married women, even though they don't contribute to the fund, as wage-earners do.

"We don't have a test reliable enough to replace this one," said disability department director Yehzekiel Bakal.

The test is only for women, since men cannot qualify for the home-maker disability fund. Other workers, male or female, who request disability insurance are evaluated on the basis of medical evaluations and do not take a practical test.

Gila Stopler, a lawyer for the Association for Civil Rights, said that made the test discriminatory.

"If a construction worker says he can't work, a doctor checks him out," she said. "No one tests him to see if he can put one brick on top of the other." Tests on specific household chores are necessary, according to the director of the Beit Levenstein Rehabilitation Center in Ra'anana, because housewives are not expected to switch jobs because of their disability.

"It's also a cognitive test, for example, if she knows how much oil to put in the frying pan, if she can do two tasks at once," said Haim Ring, a PhD.

A team of doctors, nurses and therapists at Beit Levenstein, alarmed by newspaper and radio

criticism of the practice, were anxious to show that applicants are treated with respect and sensitivity.

"It's true, there are a lot of women who come to the kitchen and are against it," said Ofra Maron, a therapist who guides the women through the exam.

"I don't force anyone to do it," she said, but not doing it is "to her detriment, because if she does the test, then I have a way to check." Muchtar said that no one pressured her to perform the tasks and that she did not feel humiliated.

Stopler said it is the assumption behind the policy - that every unemployed married woman is a housewife - that is discriminatory.

Under the law, any married woman who has not worked for

four years wishing to apply for a disability pension must do so as a housewife, regardless of her prior profession.

A married female pilot who had been unemployed for four years, for example, would have to apply for the pension on the basis of her inability to slice bread, rather than fly a plane.

Na'amat said it was asking the NII to change its policy and would go to court if necessary.

Bakal said he is aware that not all women who take the test are housewives, but said he is doing the best he can to compensate women under the limitations of a 1974 disability law.

"She may never have hung laundry," Bakal said. "It doesn't matter. The alternative is to give her nothing." (AP)

Rabbis for Human Rights celebrates 10 years

By AMY KLEIN

Rabbis for Human Rights celebrated its 10th anniversary yesterday with a gathering at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem to discuss "Human Rights in Israel and the Palestinian Authority - Legal, Political, and Religious aspects."

Labor MK Shevah Weiss and Bassem Eid, head of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, were among the speakers.

Rabbi David Forman founded the organization during the intifada, because he felt rabbis were not condemning the violations of human rights and sometimes were justifying it. "I wanted to show the brighter and more enlightened voice for Jewish tradition - not just David the warrior, but the David who wrote Psalms," he said.

Nearly 90 rabbis in Israel are active in the organization, about a dozen of them Orthodox, said Forman, who received an award last night and currently sits on the board.

One of the organization's first projects was undertaken at the behest of Dedi Zucker, when he first formed B'tselem. He asked it to write to then defense minister Yitzhak Rabin about the deprivation of health care in the territories. "We signed it 'Rabbis for Human Rights,' and that took everyone by surprise and made the headlines," Forman said. "And an organization was on its way."

In the future, they plan to concentrate on protecting foreign workers and working within the educational system, Forman said.

Vatican: Israel, PA should share millennium profits

Any commercial benefits deriving from an anticipated mass pilgrimage to the Holy Land for the millennium should be equally divided between Israel and the Palestinians, the Vatican envoy to the region said yesterday.

Pope John Paul II recently delivered an exceptional Bull encouraging pilgrims to Rome for 2000 celebrations to continue on to the Holy Land.

Some three to four million pilgrims out of 10 million anticipated in Rome are expected to do so, and both Israel and the Palestinians are looking forward

to an economic mini-boom. Monsignor Pietro Sambri, addressing a meeting of the Inter-religious Coordinating Council in Israel, said the Roman Catholic church has been coordinating with other churches on the anticipated influx.

"The churches hope that commercial benefits will be evenly distributed among all sectors of the community, both in Israel and in the Palestinian territories," Sambri said. "Such benefits should also reach the poor."

Palestinian Authority official Nabil Kassir, who is in charge of

millennium festivities for Bethlehem, said yesterday that Bethlehem 2000 celebrations are helping "jump start" economic development for the Palestinian-run city.

The Vatican hosted a Bethlehem 2000 event last week, attended by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, aimed at reinforcing the papal endorsement of Holy Land pilgrimage.

Arafat complained at the Bethlehem 2000 event that Israel was attempting to discourage pilgrims from staying overnight in Palestinian areas, depriving the

Palestinians of hotel dollars. Vatican officials seemed sympathetic to his complaints.

Israel denied it is discouraging tourism to Palestinian areas, and complained that it had not been invited to attend the Bethlehem 2000 event.

In his Bull, the pope encouraged Catholics to celebrate 2000 as a way of seeking spiritual renewal and said it should be "celebrated not only in Rome, but also in the land which is rightly called 'Holy,' because it was there that Jesus was born and died." (AP)

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הכרזה מן האוכל

Rabbinate: Do not meet with Reform

By ELI WOHLGELER

The Netanya Religious Council failed to convene its scheduled meeting last night, after Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron and the city's chief rabbi ruled that the Orthodox council members did not have to sit with their Reform counterparts.

The meeting was called to order by council chairman Dov Dombrovitch, who told the 26 members who attended that he had received orders from the Chief Rabbinate and Rabbi David Shloush, the city's chief rabbi, to cancel the meeting, because they do not allow them to sit with Reform and Conservative Jews.

Dombrovitch said that, although he is not

a legal expert, he knows the law said one thing and the rabbinate another, and so for the time being there would be no meeting.

The maneuver was apparently aimed at preventing the Orthodox from sitting with Dr. Joyce Brenner, who 11 months ago became the first person in the country's history to take part in a meeting of a local religious council as a representative of the Reform movement.

"It's sort of sad, because we've been meeting for about a year and we thought in Netanya we had it under control," Brenner told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

"Listen, this whole thing is very political, and there must be a lot of trade-offs. All the meetings I've been to, none of the ultra-Right came but the others did, and they

talked with me, and they're friendly with me, and even today they were all supportive.

"The struggle is much bigger than just Reform and Conservative against the ultra-Right. I think it's really middle of the road observant against the ultra-Right, because the middle of the road is supporting the ability for all of us to sit together, because this is not a halachic body."

Brenner said the ruling came now after a year, because the council members were supposed to sign affidavits pledging loyalty to the State of Israel and to uphold the policies of the religious authorities.

"I came prepared to sign the oath of allegiance, but I wasn't going to unless they signed, and they didn't sign."

Earlier yesterday, Religious Affairs Minister Eli Suissa announced that he was planning on setting up new, smaller religious councils in those places where the gatherings have not convened.

Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center, said "it is not going to be so simple for him to do it, because the law requires that he first appoint an investigative committee to see why the council does not function. In that investigative committee, by law there has to be a representative of the attorney-general, and I think the attorney-general is not going to be playing along with a policy that is clearly geared to bring about a contempt of court decision."

NEWS

in brief

Police probing Bardugo, Maxim Levy

An investigation into possible mismanagement of funds by Ya'acov Bardugo, when he headed the Union of Local Authorities' economic arm, and MK Maxim Levy (Geshet), when he was chairman of the ULA, continued yesterday, police said.

Bardugo and Levy were questioned under caution by the national fraud squad on Tuesday for several hours. Police refused to divulge details of the investigation or reveal whether the two would be summoned for further questioning.

A spokesman for Bardugo, currently director-general of Mifal Hapayis, failed to respond.

According to reports, police suspect that Bardugo received monetary favors.

Margot Dudkevitch

Ukrainian Jewish union announced

Three influential Jewish institutions broke away from Ukraine's main Jewish union in Kiev on Tuesday, reflecting the sharp rivalries that divide one of the largest Jewish populations in the world.

The three groups said they would form a new alliance, the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, to unite all of Ukraine's more than 300 Jewish communities and organizations.

About 500,000 Jews currently live in Ukraine, enjoying post-Soviet civil and religious freedoms, although mass emigration has continued over the past decade.

Attempts to unite Ukraine's Jews often have resulted in angry disputes.

AP

Suspected child molester charged

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday charged Haniel Elkayam, 34, of Petah Tikva with sodomizing a nine-year-old girl at knife-point in her school washroom on February 11.

Elkayam is also charged with indecent assault against three other girls, aged 10, 12, and 13, early this month in the Petah Tikva area.

The prosecution cited Elkayam's criminal history of larceny, drug abuse, and assaulting a civil servant, and requested he be held in custody until his trial is over.

litm

Judge suggests house arrest in extradition case

Jerusalem District Court Judge Tzvi Segal yesterday instructed prosecutors to consider holding American-born Haim Berger under house arrest while the court considers whether he should be extradited to the United States to face trial on various fraud charges.

Berger, 75, was one of several members of a hassidic community in New York charged with misappropriating federal funds estimated at \$20 million.

Berger's attorneys, Pinhas Maranski and Yehuda Tonik, argued that his arrest in Israel was improperly executed, and that his old age warrants some leniency from the court.

litm

Court workers oppose information center

At a meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday, the court workers' union decided to impose work sanctions to protest the proposed opening of a courts information center in Jerusalem. The information center would handle some of the tasks normally performed by workers, such as transferring mail.

The union said it also demands the court workforce be expanded, and salaries raised. Despite the sanctions, it added, workers will be available for urgent cases.

litm

Doctors to strike hospital after assault

Doctors at Hillel Yoffe Hospital in Hadera will strike today to protest against yesterday's attack on a doctor and a nurse by relatives of a patient.

The protest strike was called as part of the Israel Medical Association's policy to reduce their functioning to a minimum for 24 hours after violent incidents against hospital staffers. A complaint against the attackers was filed with the police.

From 8 a.m. today, the hospital will work according to a reduced Shabbat schedule, with only the emergency room, intensive care, high-risk pregnancy, dialysis, and neonatal units working normally.

Judy Siegel

Local women to participate in cancer test

Over 2,000 Israeli women will be among the 120,000 around the world participating in clinical trials to study the efficacy of the CA-125 marker blood test for early detection of ovarian cancer. The testing and follow-up will be carried out over the next seven years, here and in a number of other European countries.

Prof. Uzi Beller, of Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, will coordinate the testing of women in local hospitals, in cooperation with the Israel Cancer Association and the Israel Obstetrics and Gynecology Society.

Women over 50 whose menstrual period stopped more than a year ago, who didn't undergo surgical removal of their ovaries and who don't have a family history of ovarian or breast cancer are invited to participate by calling 1-800-254-666.

Judy Siegel



Students and recently discharged soldiers enter names of Holocaust victims on computers in Jerusalem yesterday. The first stage of the Yad Vashem project to computerize millions of names of victims collected in its archives over the years should be completed next month.

(Isaac Hamari)

Yad Vashem computerizes list of 3 million Nazi victims

By DINA KRAFT

Shai Blum leaned over a computer screen and carefully punched in a Holocaust victim's name, hometown in Poland, the death camp where he was killed.

Blum, 24, a student who lost dozens of relatives in the Holocaust, is participating in an ambitious project by Yad Vashem to computerize millions of names of victims collected over the years in its archives.

The project was unveiled to reporters yesterday.

At first, the list will be used to help track victims' unclaimed assets in Swiss banks. But in the long run, Yad Vashem hopes to establish a central data base, to be accessible through the Internet and to boost research, said chairman Avner Shalev.

"It is a breakthrough," Shalev said. "It will allow us to make another huge attempt - to collect more names and testimony from Jewish families from all over the world."

One of the centers of the oper-

ation is a former lecture hall in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul neighborhood. Recently, students and newly discharged soldiers operated dozens of computers arranged in long rows.

They punched in names and scanned Pages of Testimony that have been compiled on victims by surviving relatives and friends since the 1950s. Researchers fluent in 14 different languages looked over the operators' shoulders to make sure the information was entered correctly.

A similar operation has been set up in Beersheva.

At Yad Vashem, a crane designed especially for the project lowered black boxes stuffed with archive material into a ground floor scanning area.

The first stage of the computerization is to be completed by March. Yad Vashem hopes to hand a list of more than 3 million names to the Volcker Commission, which is tracking the victims' assets in Swiss banks. The \$8 million cost of the project will be shared by the Swiss Bankers Association and

the World Jewish Congress.

Shalev said he hopes that ultimately some 5 million names will be gathered and stored on computer.

"Everyone knows these are the last historical minutes. It's the conclusion of the century, the millennium, and we have to do our utmost to see how many names we can get," Shalev said.

Many of the names are gleaned from the Pages of Testimony, which include information provided by friends and relatives on the victims' place of birth, hometown, age and place of death.

The documents are often the only death certificates, since the Nazis did not record the names of those they killed.

The pages have been stored in Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, a dimly lit long room with black walls lined with shelves. For lack of a gravesite, relatives often come to the hall to chant a prayer for the dead.

Yad Vashem also plans to scan some 10,000 lists from its archives for more names. Lists would include, for example, the

workers taken to a particular labor camp in a certain month.

The software used in the project can decipher different forms used by Yad Vashem over the years and distinguish between variant spellings of names and hometowns.

"It's a whole revolution," said Alexander Avraham, director of the Hall of Names. "Now a computer can retrieve a name by the name of the mother or date of birth, for example."

Eventually Yad Vashem hopes to make the list available on the Internet and on computer work stations at the memorial.

For Blum, the work was more than a part-time job.

His voice trembling, Blum said he will be looking for victims named Glickman or Gutwachs, the branches of his family killed at Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

"Look - I shake when I talk about it - so many of my family were wiped out," Blum said. "It's bittersweet to be part of this project, but to see so many names is not easy."

(AP)

Report: Burial societies' monopoly should be broken

By AMY KLEN

Religious burial societies overpay their directors, waste money, and receive preferential treatment from the government, all of which make it economically unfeasible for private and secular burial societies to compete, says a report published yesterday by the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, a private, economic think tank.

The 25-page paper also says that if the government enforces a March 1996 law to allocate land for alternative cemeteries, so that everyone has access to secular burial within 50 km of home, this would cost millions of shekels and create dozens of unnecessary cemeteries across the country.

About 120 burial societies are responsible for most interments in the country, with some 420 smaller organizations from settlements and kibbutzim, the report says. Israeli citizens are entitled to free burial, if they are buried near their homes. Many do not reserve plots in advance, and have a religious burial by default.

The report accuses the Religious Affairs Ministry of failing to regulate the cost of extra services not provided in the standard burial, such as special shrouds, transportation of the deceased beyond the 50 km radius, or elaborate tombstones. It recommends creating a free market for cemeteries, where pri-

ate companies can buy land and administer graveyards, thereby putting an end to ministerial oversight of burial services. The report maintains that this plan would be more cost-effective than opening alternative cemeteries for the non-Orthodox.

Shimon Navon, assistant director for the elderly at the National Insurance Institute - the government body responsible for burial allocations - rejected the proposal for opening the market. He said the government has a better solution: creating secular sections in four new cemeteries planned around the country.

The first secular cemetery is soon to be opened in Beersheva and the other three planned for Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem are in the process of receiving land. "These cemeteries cost no more for the National Insurance Institute than the ones that currently exist, and will provide another option," he said.

According to a 1995 Israel Lands Administration survey, demand for alternative burials is expected to average 5,600 per year for the next 20 years.

Religious Affairs Ministry spokesman Shmuel Malka yesterday called this estimate too high, saying the new cemeteries being opened in "a few years" would provide enough space to cover the demand for secular burials.

He said the ministry's main prob-

lem is obtaining enough land from the I.L.A. "We have to spend about NIS 60 million per year to lease land," he said.

As for eliminating the ministry's supervision of burial societies, Malka said, "that would be like telling the Interior Ministry to stop giving out gun licenses. The government reserves some rights, and the Religious Affairs Ministry oversees the burial societies."

Malka agreed with the report's criticism of the Tel Aviv burial society, which buries some 9,000 people in 11 cities a year. The Ministerial Committee on Burial is looking into opening other burial societies in Tel Aviv to break the monopoly, Malka said.

Shmuel Gefen, director of the Tel Aviv Hevra Kadisha (burial society) said that cost effectiveness is not their only consideration, and the main problem with burials is that they don't have enough land. "There is no room for burials, and people don't lift a finger to give us land," he said. The Yarkon Cemetery, which was opened in 1991, is almost full. "Everyone wants cemeteries to be opened, but no one wants them in their neighborhood," he said.

Regarding the high annual salaries received by burial society directors - NIS 575,000 in Tel Aviv, NIS 344,000 in Haifa - Gefen said, "It's not a bad salary, but it's a very hard job burying the dead."

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Damn good allies

When I first visited Beirut many years ago, just before the civil war, there was a small outbreak of shooting between two obscure factions. The next day, newspapers reported that Israeli agents were responsible for the violence.

It was in Israel's interest, the papers explained, that violence undermine and destabilize Lebanon. For me this was a whole new style of logic. One didn't need evidence to prove one party or another committed an act, one simply needed to determine who might benefit or who may have had the desire to act.

Ten years or so later, I was at an academic conference in the US listening to some aspiring scholar present a paper designed to show that Israel had been solely responsible for the Lebanese civil war. Professor Malcolm Kerr, tragically destined to be assassinated by a terrorist when he was president of the American University in Beirut, stood up. "I'm one of that dying school of people," he said, "who believes you must have proof before reaching a conclusion."

More recently, one could read in quite respectable Arab newspapers that the scandal regarding US President Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky was a Zionist plot to blackmail or weaken the American chief executive. Before that, when Pakistan exploded an atomic bomb, several Arab newspapers claimed that Israeli planes were in the airspace above Pakistan, poised to attack the nuclear reactor there.

The Clinton-Lewinsky story only made its way into the Western media as a kind of joke, but the Pakistan story was picked up by some European and American newspapers. Fortunately, people finally realized that this claim was a logistical absurdity.

These events came to mind in recent days as hysteria mounted around accusations that Israel was involved in Turkey's seizure of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. Few realized that these stories, too, originated in Arab newspapers not known for their high degree of accuracy in such matters.

In this case, though, there was no easy way of countering the claims. Israel could not prove that it wasn't behind this event. Each denial was taken almost as additional verification. Western reporters, asked why they were giving the story such attention, said there had been "reports" that it had happened. Apparently, it was no longer their job to consid-

er whether these reports were based on evidence or came from reliable sources.

Like many events concerning the Middle East, this story would have been funny if it hadn't led to people being killed, and others placed at risk.

Of course, the whole procedure resounds throughout Jewish history, centuries before modern Israel's creation. Jews have always been held accountable, merely on the basis of their alleged brilliant deviousness, ability to do anything, and willingness to stop at nothing.

This was the most disturbing aspect for Israel of the Ocalan affair, but by no means the only disgusting one. Some people, many of whom have no real concern for Israel and others who should know better, came forward to say that the problems arising from this event proved that the Israel-Turkey alliance was a mistake or should be reexamined.

Isn't this argument shamefully familiar? Over and over again in past decades, there were those in Europe and sometimes in America who used a fear of terrorism to justify the abandonment of Israel. If we associate with these people, they claimed, we will be targeted by terrorists.

Can it be denied that this was a real factor that affected the foreign policy of many states over a large number of years? And now, was this loathsome line of reasoning to be used to set Israel's own behavior?

Of course, there is also an element of racism in the inability of some people to believe that the Turks were incapable of pulling off a very simple operation against an armed resistance or even reasonable security.

Let's be blunt about the real source of this attitude: "They aren't white Christians, old boy. Not really up to it. Must have had someone else telling them what to do and how to do it. We certainly can't have such people in the European club, you know. Still have a touch of the barbarian in them."

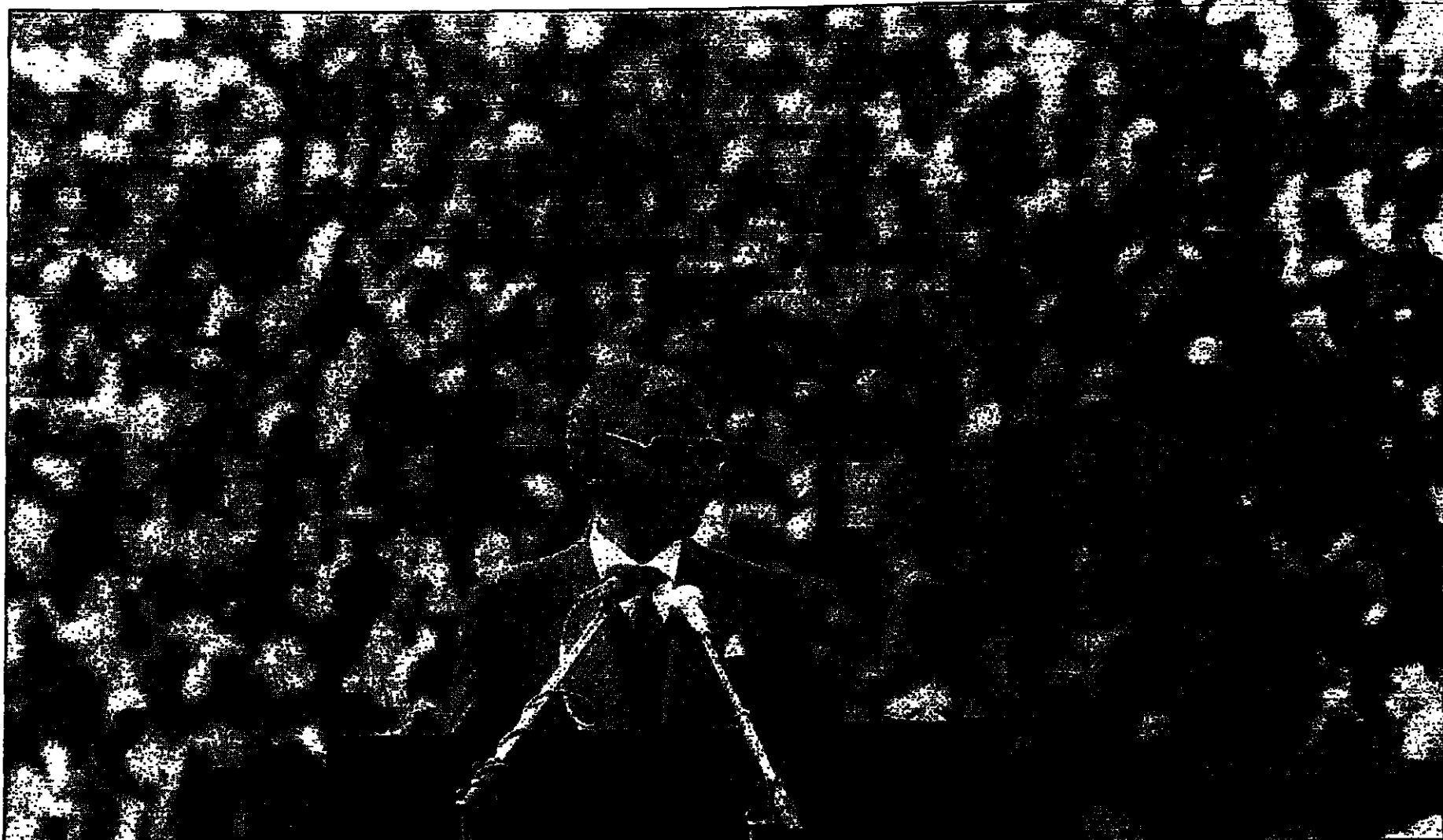
On the contrary, Turkey's willingness to face down Syria and force Ocalan's expulsion, its readiness and ability to defend its own people by seizing Ocalan, and courage in overcoming hostile European opinion are all damn good indications that it makes a splendid and reliable ally.

What's the alternative? Should we, like some, prefer Middle Eastern states with lots of money who sponsor terrorism, or European countries greedy for cash and too scared to stand up to terrorist groups?

The Region



Barry Rubin



South African President Nelson Mandela speaking at a rally in 1990

(Brian Hoadley)

Mandela winds down

BY LYNNE DUKE

As he settles aboard the Falcon, his official jet, for Mandela is tired and his brittle legs are weary, especially that bad right knee. Flight attendant Michele Williams kneels, carefully removes his shoes.

Mandela stretches his legs out on a facing seat and Williams flutters open a soft fringed blanket, arranging it gently over her nation's beloved president.

He is 80, an icon in his twilight, tired at the end of another grueling day. But do not think that Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is bowing to age. Not now, not just yet. Although only three months remain for him in office, his mission is far from over.

Traveling with Mandela, even for one day, is to witness his extraordinary single-mindedness, moral suasion and personal contentiousness.

With an entourage including a cabinet minister, his doctor and a security detail, Mandela began his day of travel at 6:40 a.m. last Friday in Cape Town. He ended it 15 hours later in Pretoria, some 1,500 kms away.

He struggled up and down airplane stairs more than a dozen times, clutching aides' arms for support. He endured turbulent flights and rough landings on dirt airstrips. He delivered four speeches in three languages in three remote towns, always pushing racial reconciliation.

Over and over, he danced his trademark shuffle, pumping his arms but barely moving his feet. He held talks with business executives he expects to build rural schools and clinics. And, responding to a breaking crisis - the news that a police anti-terrorism official has been ambushed in Cape Town - he tells his staff, "I must go to the hospital to see him." "It's not because I like it," Mandela says aboard the Falcon.

"But I have to do it."

THREE-and-a-half decades have passed since Mandela faced the gallows for treason against white minority rule, when he outlined the ideals of democracy and equal opportunity for which he was ready to die.

Mandela has seen some of those ideals come true. Apartheid, the system of racial segregation and discrimination, has ended. Legal equality prevails. The nation's black majority is reflected in the composition of the government he heads. Rights of all kinds are protected as never before.

But he must keep pushing, cajoling and inspiring, to distance his nation from apartheid's psychic damage, to buoy its fractious people with hope, to convince them that everyone, black and white, is part of South Africa and must contribute to the new national identity he struggled to foster.

This is what Mandela does. This is who Mandela is.

Traveling with Mandela also reveals his tough side. Perhaps because he is tired, his usual graciousness is at a low ebb and he combatively deflects interview questions he is not keen to answer, especially about life after the presidency. Is he looking forward to retirement? "What is the relevance of that?" he snaps.

In an ideal world, what would a typical day of retirement be like? "No, I don't think we should talk about ideal worlds. I am in South Africa, here," he declares.

But he thinks a minute. On the subject of ideal worlds there is

something more to add, something that softens his sparring. It is his many grandchildren, whose formative years he does not want to miss, as happened while his own children were growing up and he was in jail for 27 years.

"I have got grandchildren," he says. "I miss the opportunity of listening to them, to their dreams. I have vowed, whatever else I do, I must give space to my grandchildren and be able to help them to grow."

SOUTH Africans can scarcely fathom official life without Mandela.

Mandela, during his years of imprisonment, became the preeminent symbol of the liberation of South Africa's majority. His 1990 release sounded apartheid's death knell. Then his party, the African National Congress, prevailed in 1994 in a resounding vote for democracy in the first all-races national election.

In the past five years, Mandela has been the nation's president and its conscience, the voice of its aspirations. He routinely tells his people of the need for racial reconciliation; of the need for the white minority to

and isolated towns, is home to harsh conditions, both physically and socially.

It is a region of Afrikaner farmers, descendants of the 17th-century Dutch-French settlers who enforced their language and culture on the indigenous people, the Khoisan and the Xhosa. Over time, there also emerged the "coloreds," products of racial mixture. Here the communities, still divided by race, are examples of the vast social needs left over from the apartheid era.

With government finances stretched thin, Mandela has persuaded big business, which basically means white business, to commit capital for development in poverty-stricken areas, which, basically, means poor black or colored areas. About 30 corporations have built scores of schools and clinics in rural regions like the Northern Cape.

ON this trip, Mandela's persuasive powers are targeted on executives from the liquor industry: Gary May and Tshidi Tseane of Gilbey's, and Stoffel Cronje of Distillers Corp.

"There is a realization that the community which has got advantages as a result of the history of the

business, put some resources in?"

May and his colleagues are considering Mandela's appeal. As the day proceeds, however, it becomes clear they are being pulled along faster than they'd envisioned.

"They have come to see for themselves what is required and to meet those whose needs we must all address together," Mandela tells a crowd in a town of 22,000 called Prieska - "place of the lost she-goat" in Khoisan.

"They are eager to play their part in the reconstruction and development of our country, and to share their resources with those who were disadvantaged in the past," he tells the crowd. "They are acting in the true spirit of reconciliation, a practical partnership to overcome the legacy of our divided past."

As the day proceeds, May grows apprehensive: "He just must be careful not to overpromise, because we can't do every town." Mandela, however, ended the day certain the liquor industry would do its part. His appeals, he said, are never turned down.

THE Colesberg Civic Center is packed. A choir of black, white and

and 2.5% Indian. The combination of the two songs is one of the symbolic steps Mandela's government took to show its embrace of Afrikaners. Mandela is not bitter toward the Afrikaner per se, though he has had differences with certain Afrikaner leaders.

What does embitter Mandela are those whites - including the steady stream of those leaving the country - who refuse to embrace South Africa's new identity.

Mandela seemed to say good-bye to them last year. "We are convinced that the real South Africans are being sorted out in this process," he said then. "They are saying, 'I am not going to run away from my country. I am going to stay and serve my country.' It is a theme he picks up once again here in Colesberg."

"None of you should fear serving your own country," Mandela is saying, targeting the white minority. "You have no other country. This is your country."

"Don't sideline yourselves. You have the advantage of education. You went to schools... You went to university. We want you. Don't be on the sidelines, because white supremacy in this country we have destroyed. It will never come back."

So, too, he warns of black supremacy.

"Now, to you blacks, Africans. We are in the majority and the majority tends to abuse, tends to have contempt for the minority... One of the greatest mistakes is to try to abuse the minority."

Later, aboard the Falcon, Mandela explains: "It's something which is there. If you don't caution about it, this may happen. And it is proper to caution about it before it arises."

IT IS dusk in Cape Town, and Mandela is at the Milnerton Medi Clinic, in a private room with a white woman who is pacing and gesturing excitedly.

She is Rozanne Visagie, and her husband, Schalk Visagie, is at that moment in surgery to remove three bullets that struck him during an ambush on a Cape Town highway. Visagie, commander of a unit that is probing a spate of recent urban bombings, is the second officer on that investigation to be ambushed this year; the first was killed.

Rozanne Visagie is also the daughter of former South African president P.W. Botha, one of the most "unrepentant," unreconciled leaders of the old order.

While Mandela meets with Botha's daughter, whispers fill the hallway outside. Visagie wants to release a statement slamming Mandela's government for outlawing the death penalty, people are saying.

"If P.W. wants to send a political message, he mustn't do it under these circumstances," a white man says worriedly.

Mandela emerges and makes a brief statement to a small press pack, saying he came only to show his support for Visagie.

His face is sagging. His voice is raspy. He tenses up into the Cape Town dusk, among police with automatic weapons and bulletproof vests, and heads to the airport for the last leg of this day's marathon.

Back on board, when gently prodded, he returns to the subject of retirement.

"Well, if you are talking about the fact that I keep in mind that in May or June this year I will step down, in that sense I'm looking forward to it." But, he adds, "It's just an ordinary event, like the other events which take place in my life."

(The Washington Post)

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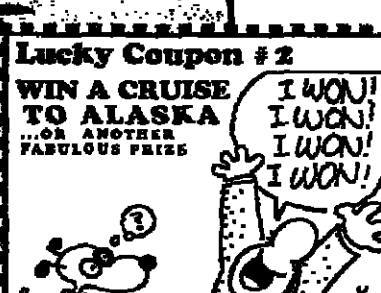
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A 1961 Associated Press file photo showing then African National Congress president Nelson Mandela prior to his imprisonment. Mandela spent 27 years in prison for his ANC activities.

step into the new South African mainstream and out of the tut-tutting margins; of the perils of blacks abusing their status as the nation's majority; of the special responsibility that big business has to help uplift the nation.

That last theme was the purpose of a trip to De Aar. This semi-arid region of northern Cape Province, with its stark, wind-swept terrain

country must now share those resources," Mandela says. "Insofar as getting business to deliver services, it's something which I have to do because that need is there."

Says May in a separate interview: "What he's saying is, there's a big backlog of development. There are communities that have been left behind. And so he's trying to take people there and say, 'Can you, as a

colored schoolchildren belts out a beautiful rendition of the national anthem. *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika*, they sing. God Bless Africa.

For reconciliation's sake, the anthem was officially determined in 1994 to include the Afrikaner anthem, *Die Stem van Suid-Afrika*. The Voice of South Africa.

The nation's population is 77% black, 12% white, 8.5% colored

هكذا من الأصل

Serb peace negotiators return home to Belgrade

By SLOBODAN LEKIC

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Jubilant Serb negotiators returned home yesterday, saying they prevailed against Western pressure at the Kosovo peace talks by keeping foreign troops out of the province.

State media joined in the exultation, describing the results of 17 days' talks in Rambouillet, France, as a victory for the government of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

In contrast, a mood of defiance prevailed among Kosovo's Albanian leaders, who were unable to gain an agreement for full independence for Kosovo, a province with an overwhelming ethnic Albanian majority among its 2 million people.

Peace talks were frozen Tuesday until March 15, after Western mediators extracted only partial agreement between warring Serbs and ethnic Albanians on a political framework for separatist-minded Kosovo.

The military part of the proposed accord — which provides for the stationing of 28,000 armed NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo — was left unresolved because of Serbia's steadfast refusal to admit foreign troops.

Serbian President Milan Milutinovic told reporters at Belgrade airport yesterday that the talks had achieved "significant initial success" in solving the problems in Kosovo, where more than 2,000 people have died in fighting in the past year. "Our principal efforts to preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our country were affirmed," Milutinovic said.

In Kosovo, Adem Demaci of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army told the Albanian-language daily *Kosova Sor* that he and the KLA will continue working on full independence as a "final solution to the Kosovo problem."

"There was huge pressure on us to accept, because [Milosevic] was rejecting the agreement. But we Albanians should not accept something just because Milosevic rejects it," Demaci was quoted as saying.

Ethnic Albanian sources said the Albanian delegation in France, which was unable to get international officials to go along with its demand for an independence referendum, has decided to form a new "government" that will function until elections can be held.

61 die in China plane crash

By JOHN LEICESTER

BEIJING (AP) — All 61 people aboard a Chinese airliner were killed when it plunged into a farm field and exploded yesterday, state media reported.

The Russian-made Tupolev-154 with 50 passengers and 11 crew members was 20 kms. from its destination of Wenzhou, a city about 400 kms. south of Shanghai, when it crashed and then exploded at 4:20

p.m., Xinhua news service said. The weather was clear, observers said, and the cause of the crash was under investigation.

The plane gouged a hole more than 60 meters long by 30 meters wide and several farmers were injured and taken to hospitals, the report said.

No foreigners were among the passengers, Xinhua reported.

The China Southwest Airlines Flight SZ4509 originated in

Chengdu, in Sichuan province in the southwest.

Chinese air carriers are especially busy now because millions of people traveled home for the Lunar New Year, the nation's biggest holiday, which this year started on February 16. China's last major air disaster was in May 1997, when a Boeing 737 crash-landed at an airport in the southern city of Shenzhen, killing 35 people.

In June 1994, a Tupolev-154

slammed into a field in northern China, killing all 160 people aboard in the country's worst-ever air disaster.

An official newspaper said yesterday that China plans to spend 10 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) upgrading its air traffic control systems.

The upgrade includes building 10 large air traffic management centers by 2010, up from the 37 smaller centers in use now, the *China Daily* said.



The area of the Austrian resort town of Galtner, hit by an avalanche late Tuesday, as seen from an Austrian army helicopter yesterday.

Austrian avalanche toll at 14

VIENNA (Reuters) — Austria yesterday appealed abroad for more rescue helicopters as the number of bodies recovered from an avalanche in the western ski resort of Galtner rose to 14, APA news agency reported.

Local firefighters and police joined dozens of volunteers in a frantic search for survivors after a 16 foot high wall of snow smashed through the village Tuesday afternoon. A team of doctors, most of whom were in the area on holiday, treated the injured in a sports center.

Elsewhere in Europe, the cost in

lives and property damage from recent avalanches continued to mount.

In Switzerland, the death toll rose to seven from a weekend avalanche near the southern village of Evoleme, when rescue teams pulled out the bodies of four adults and one child, police said. Three people remain missing.

Tens of thousands of tourists were cut off in snowbound resorts in Austria and Switzerland.

In France, blizzards hampered rescuers trying to find five French skiers and hikers missing in the Alps and the Pyrenees.

Galtner remained isolated from the outside world, with all roads to it impassable and a military rescue team equipped with dogs and specialist equipment unable to leave nearby Landeck by helicopter because of strong wind and snow.

Electricity was unavailable in parts of the village and telephones were down.

By early yesterday, 29 people had been found alive in addition to the 14 dead. A smaller second avalanche hit the outskirts of the resort just after midnight but claimed no new victims, APA said.

Austrian defense ministry

spokesman Wolfgang Pucher said the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, and Switzerland had been asked to provide extra helicopters to airlift in supplies and evacuate residents and holidaymakers as soon as weather conditions permit.

Franz Wenko, a local hotel manager, told Austrian television by telephone of the moment the avalanche struck.

"We were drinking mulled wine and then the lights went out. It was all of a sudden dark, with snow and haze. We thought only of getting out as soon as possible," he said.

WORLD

in brief

Ocalan's lawyers still barred from seeing him

ANKARA (AP) — Lawyers for Kurdish rebel chief Abdullah Ocalan were again barred from meeting with him yesterday, after having been excluded from his first legal hearing a day earlier.

At Tuesday's proceeding, closed to the press and public, Ocalan was formally arrested on treason charges, paving the way for his trial in a state security court where prosecutors say they will seek the death penalty. It marked the ninth day in custody without access to attorneys for Ocalan, who was brought to Turkey February 16 after being seized in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi by Turkish commandos.

"The fact that Abdullah Ocalan has not been allowed to see any legal counsel since being charged is a direct abuse of his legal rights," said one of his lawyers, Ahmet Zeki Okcuoglu.

Witness describes killing in war crimes case

LONDON (AP) — An elderly witness at Britain's first war crimes trial testified yesterday that he saw accused Nazi collaborator Anthony Sawoniuk among the police who tormented and stabbed an old man to death in Belarus in 1942. The prosecution says Sawoniuk, 77, acknowledges joining a police force set up to murder the local Jewish population after Germans overran his hometown of Domachevo in June 1941. But he denies the four murders of which he stands accused.

Benzion Blustein, 76, who came from Israel to testify in the Old Bailey Criminal Court, said that he saw a policeman called Andruska — alleged to be Sawoniuk — and other officers take out an 80-year-old Jewish neighbor, Shaya Idel, a scholar.

"The Ukrainian police went after him and stabbed him with bayonets. They set fire to his beard and his sidecloths. I did not hear one cry. They dragged him and hit him and he disappeared from the horizon."

Defense begins in Italian cable car case

CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina (AP) — The pilot of a US Marine jet that hit an Italian gondola cable, killing 20 people, was neither qualified nor adequately trained for the fatal low-level mission, a defense witness testified yesterday.

Milton Miller, who helped the Air Force establish its low-level training standards, was the second defense witness to testify after prosecutors rested their case against Capt. Richard Ashby.

The crew of the EA-6B Prowler that severed the cable on February 3, 1998, was "not proficient, especially Captain Ashby," Miller testified. "They did not have this kind of training and that led to what happened in the mishap valley."

Nigeria decrees terms for civilian president

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's military government issued new rules yesterday limiting the winner of Saturday's presidential election to two four-year terms and requiring that he declare all assets before assuming power.

The government of Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar also set out other election rules, including jail terms and fines for anyone caught offering or accepting bribes. The rules were released as part of Nigeria's draft constitution, which is still being debated and written. The ballot is the climax of Nigeria's planned transition to civilian government after 15 years of military rule.

Egypt's population tops 62 million

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's population has reached 62,687,839, the government announced yesterday. Announcing the results of a census carried out in January 1998, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said the population is increasing by 3,444 persons a day or 2.4 persons a minute. The previous census in December 1996 put Egypt's population at slightly above 59 million people.

According to the latest census, some 1.9 million Egyptians live abroad. The government is encouraging family planning to reduce the population growth, which is eating away into its social and economic development plans.

CIA predicts serious Y2K problems abroad

By JIM ABRAMS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Year 2000 computer problem could cause serious disruptions abroad, including breakdowns in nuclear reactors and strategic missile systems, midwinter power outages, and disruptions in world trade and oil shipments, a CIA official warned yesterday.

Air Force Gen. John Gordon, deputy director of the CIA, emphasized at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing that gaps in information make it hard to assess the scope of the damage in foreign countries, although it is evident that

most countries, particularly Russia, are far behind the US in preparing for the crisis.

Gordon said Russia has exhibited a low level of awareness for the "Y2K" problems that could occur if computers misread the year 2000 as 1900. Midwinter power outages, he said, could have "major humanitarian consequences" in countries such as Russia and Ukraine.

"We currently do not see a danger of unauthorized or inadvertent launch of ballistic missiles from any country due to Y2K problems," he stressed. But he said there could be serious local problems with missiles if temperature or humidity

monitors malfunction, and that problems in early-warning systems could lead to incorrect information.

The developing world faces the greatest threats of disruptions, Gordon said. China will probably experience failures in key sectors such as telecommunications, electric power, and banking.

"The US is regarded as the world leader in fixing the Y2K problem, but the draft of a report being prepared by two senators who have been studying the issue, Robert Bennett, R-Utah, and Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said the consequences within the country should not be underestimated."

Atomic bombings top US journalists' list of century's news

By ABILENE LEVINSON

NEW YORK (AP) — The top news story of the 20th century was America's atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, according to a survey of prominent US journalists and scholars released yesterday.

The 1945 bombings topped 99 other stories of the century. The list was compiled for the Newsweek, a museum about news gathering.

No. 2 was Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon in 1969. Third place went to Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor 1941.

Participants were each asked to select the 25 most important news events, and their lists were combined to produce a final ranking of 100. That list, rearranged in chronological order, now becomes a ballot that the public can vote on.

CNN anchor Judy Woodruff concluded the century's lead news event was the atomic bombing, but "the one thing for which this century will be remembered 500 years from now was: We began the exploration of space," said historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., whose first choice was Armstrong's moon walk.

Though third on the list, Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor was No. 1 for Ben Bradlee: "World War II

was 25 percent of my life at one time," Bradlee said. The assassination of his personal friend President John F. Kennedy in 1963 was No. 6 on the final list, No. 2 for Bradlee.

Watergate, which his reporters uncovered, was 7 for Bradlee, now vice president at-large at the *Washington Post*, 14 on the list.

The public can cast votes by visiting the Newsweek Web site, www.newsweek.org.

Schlesinger looked forward. "I put DNA and penicillin and the computer and the microchip in the first 10 because they've transformed civilization. Wars vanish," Schlesinger said.

"Pearl Harbor will be as remote as the War of the Roses," he said.

Some events ranked among the top 10 reflected the survey's American orientation: No. 5: Women win the vote in the US, 1920. No. 9: The 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court case that ended school segregation.

Other stories in the top 10 included: 4: Wilbur and Orville Wright fly the first powered airplane, 1903. 7: Horrors of Nazi Holocaust exposed, 1945. 8: World War I begins in Europe, 1914. 10: US stock market crash, 1929. President Bill Clinton's impeachment ranked No. 53.

Daley wins third full term in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — Mayor Richard M. Daley easily extended his family's political dynasty, defeating former Black Panther Bobby Rush to win a third full term.

Daley won Tuesday's election on the strength of a booming local economy, a highly publicized school reform program, and sweeping efforts to give America's third-largest city a face-lift.

Daley told cheering supporters that his victory was "a vote of confidence in our city and the direction we have charted together." He carried predominantly black wards and won support in every part of the city.

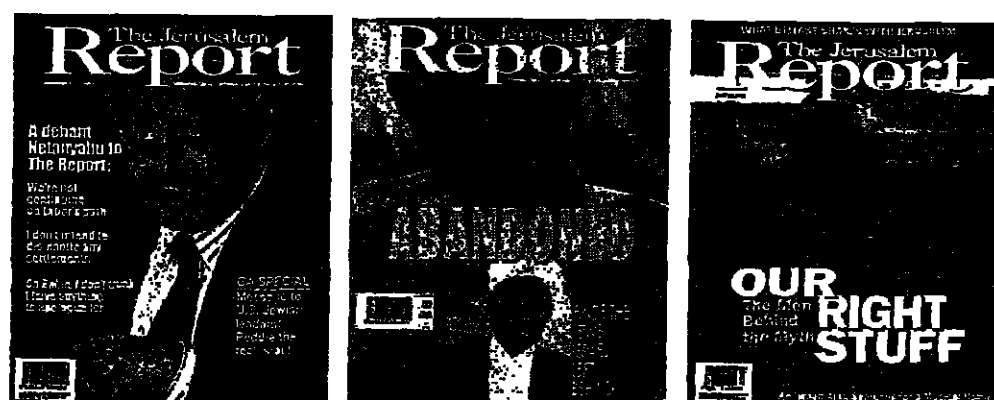
Rush, a four-term congressman, trailed badly throughout the race, which showed that Daley, like his father before him, has Chicago all sewn up.

In conceding defeat Rush praised his supporters, who he said "stood up against the odds... against all the enormous resources" that were aimed at me.

Daley, first elected in 1989, is the son of Richard J. Daley, who was mayor for 21 years and boss of the now-gone Chicago Machine.

The 56-year-old mayor has drawn national attention for his drive to upgrade Chicago's schools, once described as America's worst.

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Pirating the rule of law

The impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton presented the US Congress with an agonizing choice between seeming to condone lying under oath or removing a popular president. On Tuesday, the 14th Knesset took a blatant, undisguised slap at the rule of law without the pressure of such a legitimate dilemma, and despite the availability of ample opportunities to accomplish the same purpose harmlessly.

By a vote of 40 to 30, the Knesset passed a reservation offered by MK Zvi Hendel (NRP) that would grant a broadcasting license to any radio station that had operated continuously – and illegally – for the past five years.

The provision was designed to legalize the Arutz 7 radio station, and would also have the effect of legalizing a number of other pirate stations, including four affiliated with the Shas Party.

The issue here is not, as proponents of the measure argued, freedom of speech. It is clear, as the Peled Commission argued in June 1997, that the tight regulatory grip that the government holds on radio and television broadcasting should be substantially loosened. Aside from regulations to prevent radio stations from interfering with each other, safeguard security and transportation needs, and to protect the public against obscene or hateful speech prohibited in all media, there is no reason to dictate the number and type of radio stations. For a country with as vigorous a free press as Israel enjoys, it is striking that there is no legal, national radio station that is unaffiliated with the government.

The airwaves, then, should be opened, as the government has pledged, and as would have been partially accomplished by legislation just drafted by a ministerial commission. The commission, headed by Education Minister Yitzhak Levy and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, recommended just weeks ago that a number of "special interest" national radio stations be licensed. Yet for the Arutz 7 leaders, 10 of whom are under indictment for violating broadcast regulations, it was not enough to be allowed to compete for a tender that was more or less tailor-made for them to win. Instead, they convinced the Knesset, over the vociferous opposition of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, to toss aside such niceties as legality and fairness. By Knesset fiat, the right to operate the

first independent national radio stations will be handed on a silver platter – exclusively – to pirate radio stations.

It is mystifying why the Knesset which, after all, passed the very laws that it now has rewarded the pirate stations for violating, would so blatantly undermine its own authority. Even Levy, whose ministry oversees the Second Television Law that provides for existing legal regional stations, ignored the recommendations of his own commission and voted for the provision.

One might ask what is the purpose of having an attorney-general if his legal advice is so unceremoniously ignored – not by the opposition, but by the government. Nor can Rubinstein be accused of opposing the principle of creating a legal framework that would include Arutz 7. The Justice Ministry did not oppose, and in fact, helped draft the alternative, spurned proposal that would have led to the station's legalization.

By ignoring such efforts, the Knesset created a legal monster whose implications are unclear. No one knows, for example, how many pirate stations will be legalized by the provision, or the basis for their regulation. The Second Television and Radio Authority Law, to which the new provision assigns the just-legalized stations loosely by implication, was not written to apply to national radio stations. Nor is it clear whether the fees and regulations that apply to legal radio stations will apply to the former pirates.

Perhaps more disturbing is the unfairness of the law to radio stations that went through the arduous and expensive process of legally competing for tenders. It is not clear how such a lack of competition will pass muster with the Supreme Court, which will have to rule on challenges to the legislation.

Finally, there is now a precedent set by the same government that in March 1997 urgently pushed for more funds to shut down pirate stations that were endangering air traffic at Ben-Gurion Airport – it now regards radio piracy as no shame, and perhaps a badge of honor. Freedom of speech should be expanded by further deregulation that would allow voices from across the political and social spectrums to be heard. Trampling the rule of law along the way is wrong and unnecessary in accomplishing this worthy goal.

Kafka's cops

URI DAN

Last week, one of the IDF's most outstanding generals, Avigdor (Yanush) Ben-Gal, was turned into a punching bag and subjected to a public lynching by the Israel Police.

On the one hand, Ben-Gal was forbidden by the police to discuss his interrogation publicly, which prevented him from categorically denying the malicious libel that had been concocted against him (and through him, against Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon). But on the other hand, the police kept dealing him glancing blows in the media. Ben-Gal resembled a tied-up wrestler being beaten up by masked thugs.

Ben-Gal was questioned for 11 hours, on suspicion he was bribed by Sharon to change his testimony in Sharon's libel suit against Ha'aretz, "police sources" reported. Naturally, these police sources never identified themselves, as if they wanted to cover their rear; in case everything they had said and done turned out to be nothing more than spreading stinking smoke where there was no fire, at least they were safe.

These "police sources" also made sure there were photographers on hand to snap pictures of the reserve major-general on his way to the police station. And they made sure to announce it when "Yanush was questioned a second time for seven hours."

And when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dared to say that it was he who had suggested to Sharon that he take Ben-Gal to Russia with him in 1997 (the trip that is at the heart of the alleged bribe), the masked men – that is, the anonymous police sources – ran to inform the media that "this is improper interference in the investigation."

And Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk hastened to announce that he had

given his investigators a "wide umbrella" under which to work. Indeed, it will take a wide umbrella to protect this case sparked by Ha'aretz, which has taken on poisonous proportions. Eventually, it will emerge exactly how Ha'aretz, which is constantly battling with Sharon aside from the libel suit, managed to get the attorney-general and his aides to push the police into this foolish investigation.

Ben-Gal and I have known each other for many years, though we have never been friends; in fact, we argued frequently. Nonetheless, I cannot forget the courage he demonstrated at the head of his brigade on the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur War, which we heard about even as the bitter battles led by Sharon at the Suez Canal were taking place.

But I have not come to restore a fighter and commander's lost honor; that concept has no meaning in our rotten society in any case. It is something else, however, to defend a man's dignity and freedom, which are ostensibly enshrined in those basic laws that are the pride of the most hypocritical of legal eagles, including those in police uniform.

These masked men, the anonymous police sources, in their fear of exposing themselves, have created a Kafkaesque situation. They are allowed to leak anything, including lies, and can then say that this was part of "a psychological process necessary for the investigation." But about themselves, about their methods of investigation, its format, and the evil and tendentious leaks that emerge from it, one cannot emit a word of criticism.

If this spectacle wasn't so sad, it would be less appropriate for Kafka than for Sholem Aleichem, the humorist who had a knack for portraying the fools, innocents, and

Dry Bones



wicked men who generated the famous tales about their ghemo lives. I don't believe Wilk's pious declaration that "we do not set a target at the outset of an investigation that presumes its ultimate results."

For if this is the case, how can his investigators justify their work in this case, which was going on in secret for several months? How can they account for the wiretapping that they carried out with Bolshevik-like enthusiasm? How can they defend the large financial outlay involved in such an investigation, perhaps even including secret "business" trips to Russia?

And how can they explain the nasty leaks to the press?

They will have to come up with some story to justify an intensive investigation into this wild-goose chase, a product of a sick mind, regarding how "Sharon bribed Ben-Gal into changing his testimony."

They will probably tell a tale of "apparent suspicious" ("sort of, like – you know," as teenagers say), so that at least people might believe there had been a goose.

Too bad we don't have a Sholem Aleichem to describe this miserable mockery of a police force. A police force whose minister threw up his hands and called on citizens to protect their own property, and deal with their own stolen cars and burglarized homes, thus publicly declaring that the system he runs is bankrupt.

Yet this same system claims it has the ability to investigate these vicious, false charges made by Ha'aretz, regarding how a minister bribed a general – and in Russia, yet.

Perhaps only Sholem Aleichem, with his wild imagination, could find a way to explain to our police inspector-general exactly where to stick his umbrella.

The View From the East

DAOUD KUTTAB

Bypassing the censors

Cairo hosted an interesting conference last weekend: a conclave on Arab satellite broadcasting, sponsored by the UK-based Article 19 organization.

Arab and Western academics spoke for two days about satellite transmissions and their future in an Arab world that is still largely run by closed and undemocratic regimes. With the exception of a senior executive from the new Egyptian satellite digital station Nile Sat, no Arab television station executives or producers attended.

Article 19 is a nongovernmental organization dedicated to the advancement of policies and regulations that guarantee the freedom of speech (which is the 19th clause in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

Satellite broadcasts, like the Internet, provide a rare opportunity to reach populations whose rulers have kept a tight fist on information for decades. As one speaker noted, Arab rulers, unable to block this media platform, are now forced to deny what is being said there or counter it by going on the air with their own version. It's an indication that these countries' total control over the media is over.

What is more interesting is that some of the newer satellite stations are challenging even the dominant Saudi-backed wealthy satellite stations and pay-TV channels.

In commenting on the most popular satellite station, the Qatar-based Al Jazeera, one of the researchers declared an "end to the media cartel. Once one station breaks rank and doesn't toe the line, all the other stations will have to compete and therefore

more than 60% of the Moroccan people don't watch either of the country's two channels. Apparently, more people in Morocco watch French satellite stations and Al Jazeera than their national channels. For the first time, Arabs are finding out what is happening in their

production of quality programs, some of the Arab academics tried to defend existing censorship and "controls." One even argued that "protocol news" is necessary in the developing world, so that the public knows what its leaders are doing!

Fortunately, these arguments were quickly rebutted, but that such mentalities still exist in the Arab world's intellectual community is very worrisome.

Perhaps one of the most important trends discussed at the conference related to advertising. Despite the sharp drop in oil prices, which tends to depress Arab economies, advertising dollars spent on Arab satellite stations has been increasing significantly. In 1998 more than \$300 million was spent on satellite television advertising. Naturally, these advertising dollars, which know no politics or national pride, went to the most-watched stations.

Certainly it would be a mistake to expect major change from government-subsidized Arab broadcasters just because of ratings. But the satellite and Internet revolutions are giving Arab viewers something new.

As long as Arab governments can't shoot down satellites, or confiscate TV remote control units and computer keyboards, Arab viewers will have something they haven't had before. Choice.

Satellite and the Internet provide an opportunity to reach Arabs whose rulers have controlled information for decades

engage their viewers.

But Al Jazeera, whose popular political debate program, *The Opposing Stream*, has been instrumental in giving the station top ratings, is still the exception.

In a talk I gave on the low level of programming on Arab satellite stations, I angered some of the audience by stating that most Arab satellite broadcasters are more interested in having their tiny logo on the bottom of the screen than in the quality of the programs actually filling the screen.

Every Arab country, no matter how small, feels that going on satellite is tantamount to international recognition. Some countries have more than one station with little indigenous programming.

A recent study submitted to the Moroccan parliament showed that

own country and in the rest of the Arab world, without the filters of national broadcasters and Information Ministry controllers.

THE significance of this is not only political. Government and civic leaders are afraid that this uncontrolled openness will cause major social upheavals.

One Egyptian researcher said that CNN's success in Egypt was due to the fact that its cable subscriptions were marketed along with the popular music channel MTV. A professor from the American University in Cairo told the conference that his students think that all Americans use the profanities they hear street gangs using on television.

But instead of accepting these facts and trying to encourage the

exploit resources they control, ostensibly for the public good, to their selfish ends.

Government, after all, doesn't have to compete for its customers. Neither is it disciplined by competition and profit. Increase the public budget for education or health and the lion's share will go bureaucratic purposes, including obscene salaries and perks, rather than for the students or the sick.

Statism has also a darker, more dangerous side to it. The French, who bequeathed it to the world, are now learning about this from the Paris trial charging former Socialist prime minister Laurent Fabius and his former ministers of health and social affairs with knowingly dispensing AIDS-contaminated blood to hemophiliacs.

Centralized state power inevitably results in a fatal lack of accountability, scandalous incompetence and even criminal neglect (remember the silicon in our milk, toxic waste disposal, or the frequent accidents in the IDF?).

As the prophet Samuel warned Israel, kings or states exact a heavy price for their services, so we should buy only the bare minimum. After living with the disastrous consequences of 70 years of Socialism and statism, we ought to realize that while the road to a socialist hell may be paved with good intentions, there is no reason to forget where it leads.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

END THE TV TAX

Sir, – I was very pleased when Limor Livnat received the Communications portfolio because I believed that she would make a significant contribution by privatizing the media. Not only did this make sense in terms of the prime minister's economic goals, but also because we, as new immigrants, conceptualize a state-owned TV station as completely antithetical to the goals of a democratic nation.

The success of Channel 2, as well as the general consensus that it provides better programming than Channel 1, certainly obviates the need for a state-run station. Why is the government continuing to support it? (Or should I say, why are WE continuing to support it through the TV tax?) If it is providing a valuable service, then surely there would be advertisers willing to pay to support the channel. And if there is insufficient viewership to attract advertisers, then why should the public be expected to pay for it?

It is hard for me to understand the concept of being forced to pay for the privilege of owning a TV. However, since I can still enjoy listening to a CD without paying tax, perhaps I shouldn't complain that I can't watch a home video without paying tax. I don't understand what has prevented the privatization of Channel 1, but would really like to know how much longer it will continue to be a burden to an already overtaxed population.

MIRIAM REINFELD

Jerusalem.

ANTI-RELIGIOUS SLANDER

Sir, – I take exception to the antagonism of almost all of your columnists toward the religious population. It reflects the almost united stand of the media against a population that numbers hundreds of thousands. Such slander of other groups (particularly the Arabs) would be called incitement.

It is not wrong or unusual in a democracy to criticize the judiciary, especially a judiciary that achieves office not through elections but through political appointments.

We are now witnessing the struggle for survival of the last

bastions of power of the extreme anti-religious minority – the media and the courts. All of the other centers of power (the Knesset, the Histadrut, the financial institutions, and industry) which are democratically elected or function freely have rejected the anti-religious minority. The country is better for it.

I hope that in the near future the media and the judiciary will moderate and the atmosphere will improve.

C. HIGHKIN

Rehovot.

THANK YOU

Sir, – Three cheers for Naomi Ragen. In her books and now in her opinion piece "Think again," (February 16) she expresses the feelings of many of us. The support and defense of our cruel judiciary is vital. Her contempt for haredi attacks is gratifying. But what shall we do? Dear Ms. Ragen, we are not regimented as the haredim. We don't have networks to activate us ordinary people. Maybe we should.

We are the majority. We must

stop acting like a cowed minority. Surely we could have mobilized more than 50,000 people to express our view in defense of our civil society.

Let this letter inform those who would drag us backwards to the Middle Ages that we will not permit it. And: Thank you, Ms. Ragen.

MURIEL MOULTON

Kiryat Yitvin.

THINK AGAIN

Sir, – Naomi Ragen's article "Think again" (February 16) hit me between the eyes. Unfortunately, I, as a modern Orthodox Jewess must agree with much of what she wrote. However, I resented the tone of the article. It

was laced with venom, hatred, revision, and repugnance. Think again, young lady, when you write.

DR. JENNY WEIL

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On February 25, 1934, *The Palestine Post* reported that a particularly violent storm, which had been raging for several days, put a number of ships in jeopardy and prevented disembarkation. Cargo of one ship had been lost, while another got stuck on the seashore.

50 years ago: On February 25, 1949, *The Palestine Post* pub-

lished the full text of the Israeli-Egyptian armistice agreement and expressed hope that this document signified the de-facto recognition and laid the basis for a permanent peace in Palestine.

25 years ago: On February 25, 1974, *The Jerusalem Post* reported Premier Golda Meir's passionate appeal to Moshe Dayan and

Shimon Peres to serve in her 58-member minority government. There were prospects for the new national elections, to be held soon.

Eighty names were still missing from the first official estimate of the number of soldiers unaccounted for on the Golan Heights since the October war.

Alexander Zvielli

هكذا من الأصل

Weekend

Eve's Women get the apple



Eve's Women (left to right): Orit Orbach, Michal Eizen, Yael Cohen, Tamar Naveh and Dafna Sadeh.

The five musicians of Eve's Women start with traditional Jewish music, and then they take it to town

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Two and a half years ago, four young musicians, each coming from a totally different background and discipline, formed one of the most exciting local music ensembles around. Eve's Women comprises percussionist Yael Cohen from the rock band The Witches (Hamachshafot), bassist Dafna Sadeh from the ethnic ensemble East-West (Mizrah Ma'arav), jazz keyboardist Michal Eizen, and classical clarinetist Orit Orbach. Together these women have created a sizzling musical ensemble that leans very heavily on Jewish musical traditions while retaining its very own special sound.

Yet another klezmer group? Not necessarily. "Everything we do definitely comes from a Jewish origin," says Orbach who has played her clarinet with symphony orchestras all over the world. "But I feel that the word klezmer is somewhat limiting. Klezmer has the feeling of Eastern European Jewish music, something which is very specific. Our music always starts from some kind of Jewish music, but

not necessarily Eastern European. We also play music which comes from other regions like Persia and the Middle East."

Eve's Women has become a hit, with at least six gigs a month, and it provides Orbach with an exciting outlet to play something rather different. "Classical music makes you play in a more organized and controlled way. Here I get a chance to let loose, to become crazy, to let go. I like this a lot. I love this balance in my music."

Orbach says that the clarinet has become second nature to her. "A cat and the clarinet are very much alike. Both have this ability to change shape and color, to fall on your feet and rise up at once. The clarinet has a huge register and endless colors. When I play I suffer from ongoing schizophrenia."

Everything Eve's Women plays, Orbach says, starts with a very clear musical idea usually composed or presented by one of the band members. "Then we go from there in all kinds of directions and we improvise as well. I wouldn't say that each and every performance we do is totally different from the previous one, but there is this element of surprise."

"There is something to be said for female intuition. Playing with other women is great. At first, I thought there's no difference between the way men and women play, but our playing is more intuitive, we have an added special female touch. When we started I was sure that youngsters would love this music. It's a fusion of Latin rhythms, rock and traditional music. There is nothing wrong with it as long as it's fun. I believe in fusion now, although seven years ago I was rather against it."

In the ensemble's ongoing efforts to change, improve and add more color and variety to their sound, Eve's Women recently added a fifth member, percussionist Tamar Naveh, 21.

"Ever since I started playing music, at age four or five, I was drawn to percussion," she says. "But then I studied the piano for a long time and only three years ago I returned intuitively to the world of percussion, which is meant for me. I loved playing the piano but it never made me feel like I was ready to give myself up to it. Once I returned to percussion I knew that was that."

Over the past three years Naveh has played with numerous music and dance ensembles around Israel and has even taught. "I play a lot of styles on a lot of instruments and it takes time to really find the niche you want to carve for yourself. At the moment, though, I like the variety and I do not want to specialize and limit myself."

She currently lives with her parents in Kfar Sava and the house is full of instruments. "It's not very convenient or comfortable, but it's temporary so we all manage together somehow."

Naveh was thrilled when she was approached by Eve's Women. "They were looking for a different color and I was looking for something new so it was a perfect match."

Yet she admits that her first rehearsals with the band were somewhat confusing, because "they don't have a musical director who has the last word on any artistic matter. There are four individual musicians and each has her own idea and point of view."

Naveh finds it impossible to pinpoint the band's exact musical style. "I think what makes it spe-

cial is that there are no specific styles, rather a variety of styles. It is a band that plays above all jazz music, leaning more towards the Latin style, but I really cannot define our style in a few words."

So what lies in the future of these five women whose band is being invited to more and more concerts all over the world?

"We still want to expand and grow and we are looking for a singer now," Naveh says. "What we want is a singer who uses her voice as an instrument and who comes from the jazz and ethnic music world. Yes, of course, she would sing but that is not the point here. We simply want more color so that this singer can become one of us, and not a soloist accompanied by us."

Eve's Women performs this Saturday at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque as part of the Jazz, Blues and Videotape festival. They will host Brazilian musician Paulo Moura, "who is just one of the greatest musicians around," according to Orbach, in a special fusion that she hopes will open up the audience to a different kind of musical experience.

Amir Lev performing at 9:30, (02) 625-8819.

The music goes on with *Man and Woman* on Saturday night. Shelli Sherman sings to the accompaniment of Igor Portitsky on keyboard and accordion - an intimate evening of humor, song, dance and acting. 8:30 at the Bible Lands Museum. (02) 561-1066.

And Points Beyond

Light, good, clean fun is the weekend's theme in other areas of the country. Givatayim Theater holds a *Marathon of Storytelling* tonight, hosted by Yossi Alfi, a longtime theatrical figure and the director of the Givatayim venue. Starts at 8. 40 Remez Street. (03) 529-0607.

And speaking of light, the impressively successful, English-speaking group LOGON (Light Opera Group of the Negev) has another musical for Anglo audiences. *The Pajama Game* considers labor issues in a humorous way, at the Wix Auditorium, Rehovot, tonight at 8:30 p.m. Call (08) 946-1385 or (03) 909-1372.

Native Israelis are also welcome: The entertainment at the Pargod begins tonight, however, with

Jerusalem

English theater abounds tonight with the Tall Poppy Company's version of *The Glass Menagerie*. Under the direction of Kelly Hartog, the play will be performed at the Gerard Behar Center twice, at 6 and 9. Call (02) 566-5002.

Not much Hebrew is needed on Saturday night for the new production *Temptations* by Triangle Theater, that includes pantomime and music. Starts at 9 p.m. at the Pargod Theater.

The entertainment at the Pargod begins tonight, however, with

Barbie rocks to new sounds

By ERICA ZEITLIN-YAFFE

Prompted by sporadic clapping and a few impatient whistles, a young woman with a blonde ponytail and tight-fitting dress skips onto the stage at the new Barbie nightclub in Tel Aviv. She positions herself at the mike, adjusts its height and tests the sound. "Hi, everyone," she begins. "My name is Yaron Caspi." The clapping grows louder at one end of the room and she recognizes a table of friends waving to her. With a trace of relief, she nods "ready" to her band members. Electric guitar, drums and keyboards all kick into action and before long, most of the crowd is snapping its fingers to the beat.

Infusing Tel Aviv nightlife with the first major rock-music club in years, Barbie introduces audiences to unknown bands and young singers who want to test out their talent and material. It is one of the only spots in Israel where musical newcomers get this chance. Originally opening its doors five years ago in a cramped venue near Tel Aviv's seashore, the reincarnated space on industrial Salame Street is unexpectedly airy and open.

Barbie's understated oriental and gothic decor meshes into something like a student hangout with a tad of yuppie sophistication. There is no Sheinkin "posh" here, no Cooler-Than-Thou bouncers standing at the door to filter out the fashion-fashla undesirables. This, after all, isn't a place to be seen but to be heard.

"Here it's the music that matters," club manager Shaul Mizrahi says. "We wanted Barbie to offer young artists a place to be heard. There's a lot of dynamism and life in original music."

At Barbie, you get personal contact with the musicians and a friendly hangout where you can imbibe the latest musical vibes and a beer. On a particularly good night, you may get treated to innovative alternatives to Israel's often derivative pop radio offerings.

Except for the veteran Logos club on Nahlat Binyamin's pedestrian mall, a smoky and intimate space that is now something of a Tel Aviv institution, the options open to unknown bands in the city have always been limited. Even Roxanne, the last successful effort to thrust unknown and alternative voices into the spotlight, closed down a few years ago.

Israeli pop stars such as Aviv Gefen, Eyal Haged, Ziknei Tzfat and most recently, Hayehudim, all got their break by winning over small but devoted fans in Tel Aviv's live music clubs. At Barbie, today's unknowns could be tomorrow's success stories.

The musical offerings range in style quite a bit, according to Mizrahi.

The mixed bill tends to the alternative category, but "There are even religious musicians who come here regularly and draw a religious crowd," he says.

To keep afloat, the club also regularly brings in big names like Corinne Allal, Nimrod Lev, Eitan Berger and Eran Tzur, all of whom have recently strutted their stuff at Barbie - but it's the undiscovered new artists that give the club its real character and *raison d'être*.

There are often two different acts in a night, the first one starting around 10:30 and the second around midnight. Ticket prices are relatively affordable for a live show in Israel, and range from NIS 10 to NIS 60 according to the act.

Barbie is open nightly except for Shabbat. A simple menu of salads and loaves (from hummus at around NIS 20 to NIS 40) for the Barbie salad built around halumi cheese, and a full bar are offered. For concert schedule and other information, call the nightclub at: (03) 681-6757.

Barbie, 40 Salame Street, Tel Aviv

Music on my mind

Actor Dory Tepper lists the discs he'd want with him on a desert island

"The first time that I had an audience, and I felt the excitement of that incomparable tension, I knew that I had to be an actor," says Children's Channel star Dory Tepper.

Tepper speaks with the sort of inborn self-confidence that most actors strive to possess. Unlike most of his Children's Channel colleagues, Tepper didn't begin his acting career when he began to walk.

Originally, he was a musician. At seven, Tepper began playing classical and jazz piano, and he kept with it until he was 14.

"I stopped playing, I guess, because I didn't find myself in the piano," explains Tepper. But while serving in the IDF Spokesman's Office, he put his musical talents to use on *Gordish* at the Cameri theater.

That was when he decided to be an actor. Graduating from the Nissim Nativ Acting Studio, he got both of the first jobs he auditioned for: a commercial and a TV series. He plays a young haredi in the hit series *Thruout* ("Boot Camp"), now in its second season.

Eight months ago, Tepper called the management of the Children's Channel "and told them they had to meet me. There are few things that I am sure of in my life, but this was one of them... I just knew I was perfect for it. The Children's Channel took him, and gave him his own show, *Mila Shelcha* ("Your Word").

But the stage is still important to Tepper. Currently he and a group of young actors are working on a show about autism.

"I've spent quite a bit of time with some autistics and discovered that they have an amazing world," he says.

But music is still in his bones, and if Tepper had to go to "a deserted island with only five discs," these are the ones he'd take.

L.A. Kind of Blue (Miles Davis) "This is, in my opinion, the No. 1 jazz record ever made. I've lis-



tened to it hundreds of times. This disc is the ultimate combination of musicians. I think that this specific disc had a big influence on music."

2. Requiem (Mozart) "Uplifting. That's the word. It makes you tremble. It is very powerful and deep. I don't listen to a lot of classical music, maybe because my parents sort of forced it down my throat as a child, but this just grabbed me. I love it."

3. Red (King Crimson) "In this album is the creation 'Starless.' I remember the first time that I ever really listened to music and felt that it took me somewhere, an entire journey. It was [when I listened to] 'Starless.' I have gone through so much with this creation."

4. Bitch's Brew (Miles Davis) "Again Miles Davis. This was the first Fusion album made. It sounds like a huge mess, and is very hard to understand, but the combination, again, of the musicians involved is amazing. This Jazz Fusion of the '70s is something that I really like."

5. Mysteries of Funk (Groove Rider) "This is new, released recently. It is the ultimate sound in jungle music in my opinion. This is computerized music that proves that music is a frame of mind; you don't need a specific instrument to express yourself musically, you just need to feel the need."

-Sonia Lemor

Hot tips

By DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

Tel Aviv

It was 10 years ago that the *Jazz, Blues and Videotape* festival began featuring international jazz performers alongside films that chronicle the jazz world. The festival is now a major contributor to the Tel Aviv jazz scene. Thursday night offers a perfect sample of the stuff that makes this event exciting. Music this evening ranges from Eli Magen performing a tribute to Bill Evans; the spunky Israeli fusion-jazz group Esta showing off the world premiere of

its new disc; and Brazilian Paulo Mora playing Gershwin. A "student and teacher" show includes Israeli favorites such as Rafi Kadishson and his daughter, Yoni Rechter, Shem-Tov Levy, and others. This jazz celebration continues throughout the weekend, ending on Saturday night. Call the Cinematheque at (03) 691-7181 for show times and tickets.

The whole city seems to be inspired by the American musical beat. Tonight the *Blues, Heineken and Soul* series at the Enav Cultural Center offers stiff competition. Paul deLay from Oregon will play with Shlomo Mizrahi and the Roots, in a concert starting at 9:30 at Gan Ha'ir, (03) 521-7763.

The musical world of this pluralist city only gets more complex as the evening moves on. At 10:30 tonight, Camelot hosts "the unofficial ambassador of Arab music." British oud player Aadel Salama. This unusual visitor will also perform on Friday night and Sunday at the same time and place; the Enav Center at 9:30. Call the Camelot for more details, (03) 528-5222.

Moving from Arab music back

to the west, the Israel Philharmonic will hold a special event on Saturday night - a concert celebrating 100 years since the birth of George Gershwin. The evening, entitled *Porgy and Bess and All the Rest*, will be conducted by Arthur Post and performed at the Mann Auditorium, 8:30, (03) 525-1502.

Another interdisciplinary event is available as well - American musician Elliot Sharp accompanying poet Raul Somek. The two will play selections from their disc, which was recently chosen as Disc of the Year by *Wire* magazine. The evening takes the odd title of *The Revenge of the Boy Who Shattered*. Tonight at 26 Bialik, starting at 8. Call (03) 525-3907.

Tomorrow, an interesting seminar by Gideon Samet of *Ha'aretz* takes place at the Tel Aviv Museum on the topic of *Culture and Communications*, specifically on the theme of Love and Hate. The event includes a screening of the film *Citizen Kane*. Call the museum for details.

Stick around on Saturday for the *Shabbat Supplement*, a stage of culture and current events, at 11

a.m., at the Tel Aviv Museum. Participants include: Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Gila Almagor and Eitan Even, Ido Tadmor, and Daniel Gortler. Call (03) 518-7002.

The pop entertainment of the weekend is Israeli popular music master Shlomo Artzi, performing at Tzavta 1, on Saturday at 9 p.m.

The somber work has been saved for Sunday night, when *Ticket To Paradise*, the play that examines the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, is performed at Tzavta 1, starting at 8:30.

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Weekender Food & Drink



High (stew) time

By RUSS PARSONS

The rule for cooking stews is "low and slow." But some rules are made to be broken. Lately, I've been playing with stews cooked "high and slow." There's nothing like a couple of hours at 230° to tenderize even the toughest piece of meat.

That probably sounds shocking to experienced cooks. Indeed, when I first wrote about the technique, using a leg of lamb, I called several meat scientists to see what they thought. They thought I was crazy.

But there is no arguing with the taste of that lamb. Cooked to the point that the meat is moist and falling off the bone in pieces, it is utterly delicious. When I tried cooking the same recipe the traditional way—at 160°—for the same time, the meat seemed overcooked, tight and dry.

A couple of weekends ago, I picked up what my supermarket called a round-bone steak. It looked like a big chunk of chuck, maybe 5 cm. thick. I was going to pot-roast it, so I browned the meat on both sides and put it in the Dutch oven with some aromatics and a bottle of wine. Just before I put it in to roast, I thought, "What the heck," and turned the temperature up to 230°.

I checked it every half hour or so, turning the meat to keep both

sides moist and occasionally stirring the liquid that was rapidly turning into a glaze. After three hours, the meat next to the bone was fork-tender; the outer edges could only be described as spoon-tender.

The flavor was what was amazing. The meat was tangy and beefy. The wine and aromatics had reduced to a fragrant glaze. It was like getting all of the good sticky bits that coat the bottom of a braising pan, only more so.

How does this happen? I can't say for sure, but I have some ideas.

FIRST you have to consider the piece of meat. Generally, you roast meats that do little work during the animal's life and braise or stew meats that are heavily used.

The reason you treat these cuts differently is because the more the muscles are worked, the more collagen is developed. Collagen is one of the components of the tough connective tissues that surround not only muscles but also the strands of fiber within the muscles and even the cell walls that make up those strands.

Although this connective tissue is unpleasant stuff normally, when it's cooked with moist heat, magic happens. Beginning at about 60°, the connective tissue begins to break down—or at least the collagen in it does. Instead of being stringy and tough, it becomes soft and moist.

But that happens whether that

temperature is reached slowly or quickly. So what's the magic of the high-heat braising? Based on my previous conversations with the meat scientists, I'd guess it's a combination of a couple of things.

First, the high heat turns the liquid in the Dutch oven to steam much more quickly.

The moist heat penetrates the meat and converts the connective tissue and melts the interior fat much earlier than it would otherwise. This keeps the meat moist through the cooking process.

At the same time, certain enzymes kick in at moderate temperatures during the cooking of meat that can contribute to a dry texture. Heating the meat this quickly also might be bypassing them.

Finally, when meat is cooked for a very long time, the individual protein strands within the muscles link up and harden, squeezing out moisture. Cooked this quickly, those strands may be hardening before they begin to link up, again keeping the meat moist.

Just to make sure this really works, I tried it again, with a couple of twists. First, I marinated the meat overnight in red wine, kind of like a French "daube," to give it a heartier flavor. Then, when the meat was done cooking, I strained out the braising vegetables to give it a more refined finish.

Neither improvement was an unqualified success. The wine did give a deeper flavor to the beef,

but the overnight soak allowed the meat to buffer the acidity in the wine, reducing its tang. I added half a cup of red wine vinegar to fix that.

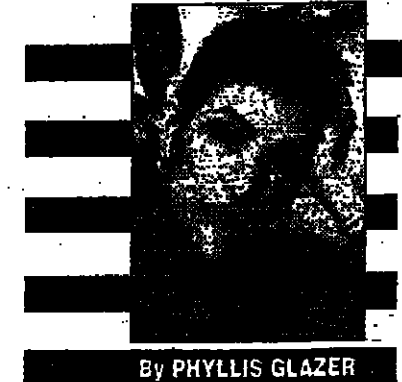
And although straining the bits and pieces of (by now) deeply browned carrots and onions gave me a more elegant presentation, there were those around my table who detected a fractional loss of flavor. Neither change is essential; let your taste buds be your guide.

As for your instincts telling you to lower the oven temperature? Ignore them.

MUSHROOM POT ROAST
1 (1½-2 kilo) chuck roast
salt
1 (750-ml.) bottle dry red wine
3 Tbsp. olive oil
½ kilo onions, sliced
6 cloves garlic, crushed
½ kilo carrots, sliced
1 stalk celery
1 bay leaf
parsley stems
1 whole clove
½ cup red wine vinegar
2 Tbsp. margarine or butter
½ kilo mushrooms, quartered
freshly ground black pepper
½ cup finely chopped parsley

Sprinkle roast with salt to taste on both sides and place in sealable plastic bag.

Add red wine, seal tightly and refrigerate 8 hours or overnight, turning occasionally to make sure



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

containers and sells for NIS 5.50.

Light Sour Cream (Not)
It's like going from the sublime to the ridiculous. As much as I like their creme fraiche, that's how much I dislike Tnuva's new "light" sour cream with fruit. With so many good yogurt products around with lower fat contents, why would I want "light" sour cream, especially with crushed strawberries or banana in it?

The new development comes as a result of market research which showed that Israelis like to eat strawberries and bananas with sour cream. But does this mean they like crushed, sweetened fruit in their sour cream? I'll bet they don't. Especially not 8% sour cream!

When I want to use sour cream, I'll use the real thing, thank you. And when I want fruit flavored dairy products, I'll go for yogurt.

Sold in 150 gr. containers at NIS 1.85 for the regular and NIS 2.40 with the addition of fruit.

Yummy Cheese Products for Babies (Okay)

When Strauss's "Gamadin" flavored soft cheese products hit the market, they were enthusiastically received. Cute and small, with tasty sweetened, white cheese inside, the Gamadim have no artificial colorings. (What a relief!)

Now Tnuva is offering its own version of Gamadin, but intended for infants, not for children. The company has invested \$2 million to develop, manufacture and release the "Yummy" product line. Enriched with vitamins, calcium and enzymes, Yummy also has the popular "Bio" probiotic bacteria addition—and is

designed for ages 6 months to 3 years.

The "first level" product for 6 month olds is white Yummy sweetened with fructose. From 9 months, you can serve Yummy with Banana or with Apple and Pear. From one year—you can add Yummy strawberry. While these products are "convenient" and "okay," you can't compare them with the goodness of giving real fresh fruit. I'm skeptical about convenience products, especially for a baby.

I would also not give a baby non-organic strawberries. A package of four 75 ml cups sells for NIS 6.50.

Hot Soups from Heinz (Okay)

Having grown up on Heinz vegetarian beans, I can attest to their quality and taste. The company's canned red beans, just recently made available to the Israeli public, are a wonderful quick addition to soups and salads.

Their soups are another story, however. We tried the Tomato Soup and Mushroom Soup. The 304 gr. cans of concentrated soup (serving 4) cost NIS 5.89. The first one had a starchy artificial taste. The tomato soup, although not very tasty as a soup (water-based), made a good addition to Sloppy Joes (an American ground beef or ground soya dish). Remembering my childhood experience with Campbells, I added milk to the mushroom soup instead of water, which made it tastier.

The ingredients are not listed in English, and the Hebrew version of the mushroom soup label contains monosodium glutamate (sensitive people beware!). I think I'll stick to their beans.

Back

By PHYLLIS GLAZER

What should we Israelis be doing about iodine intake, since most salt is iodized here, and I imagine there's a healthier way to satisfy our daily requirement? Also is it true that the agent that keeps the salt free-flowing contains aluminum or other unhappy ingredients?

Lila Julius, Kfar Kisch
Fish, and particularly seafood, are a source of iodine. Adult daily iodine requirement is believed to be 110-150 mg, while growing children and pregnant or lactating women may need more. And if you consume a diet high in salt from other dietary sources, it does not necessarily mean that the salt used in manufacturing was iodized. Aluminum calcium silicate is generally added to salt to

make it free-flowing. The FDA gives it a Generally Regarded As Safe status. Kosher salt does not have that addition, and you can grind it in a coffee grinder if you're not using it in cooking.

What is "chard" in Hebrew?
—Ofelia Dzalozinsky, Bat-Yam
Some people call chard *alai selet* (beet greens—which they aren't), and another name for them is *mangold*.

How does one make mayonnaise? Do you know of a book that teaches how to make everyday staples (like butter, pickles, peanut butter)?

—Moshe Schaeffer, Jerusalem
Although homemade mayonnaise tastes better than store-bought, it's not a good idea to make your own since it is preferable not to make foods using raw eggs. DL makes a wonderful natural mayonnaise.

You can make butter by beating a fresh cream (not *shamenet amida* which has undergone a special process) till it turns into butter.

My favorite sour pickles are made by placing small well-

washed cucumbers in a glass mason jar, measuring cold water cup for cup, and adding a teaspoon of salt for each cup of water. I also like to add a few garlic cloves, a sprig or two of fresh dill and a few teaspoons of vinegar. I put the jar on the windowsill or in the garden in the sun for about 2 days till they pickle.

Peanut butter can be made by roasting peanuts in the oven on medium heat (about 180°), removing the outer brown covering, and grinding in the blender or food processor. It's difficult to make it without adding a little oil, but you can use part oil and part water to cut down on fat.

I don't really understand why you want to make such staples since they're easily available and many are also without additives. I know of no one book which would have all those things, but there's a recipe for almond or cashew butter in my first book *Hagiga Taimhanit* ("A Vegetarian Feast") and a recipe for things like pickles and various other basics in my latest book *Mehamitbah shel Phyllis* ("Phyllis's Kitchen"), published by Keter.

Foreign foods taste better than they sound

By CHANAN PERL

I remember, as a child, how I used to look at the foreign food section in the supermarket and think, "How can those things taste so good?"

But now, as an adult, I know that the foreign food section is not just a collection of exotic dishes, but a treasure trove of delicious flavors.

Blister, Swedish for blanching, is a term used in Swedish cooking to describe the process of blanching vegetables in boiling water.

Blanching is a technique used in many cuisines to prepare vegetables for further cooking.

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הכנה מראש

Weekender Travel



The walk to the ancient site at Gamla is an easy downhill stroll from the entrance of the park, but it is a long and difficult climb back up. (Richard Nowitz)



The dolmens are believed to be the burial places of residents who inhabited the area thousands of years before the Romans or Jews. (Israel Talby)

Day Tripper

By Haim Shapiro

Gamla, the Jewish fortified town in the Golan Heights destroyed by the Roman Vespasian, has been likened to Masada. It is closely related to the resistance to the Romans. But does it have any connection to Christianity?

The site itself is beautiful, especially in the spring when the flowers are blooming and the nearby waterfall is still flowing with full force. For those not acquainted with the site, it is located on a ridge overlooking Lake Kinneret.

The walk to the waterfall is an easy one, and on the way you can admire the dolmens, arrangements of three huge rocks, each in the form of a table. These are

believed to be the burial places of residents who inhabited the area thousands of years before the Romans or the Jews ever set foot there.

Near the waterfall are a number of stations where you can observe the vultures that make their nests in the wall of the cliff.

The walk to the ancient site is an easy downhill stroll from the entrance of the Gamla National Park, but it is a long and difficult climb back up. It is, however, worth the effort. You can clearly see the remains of the ancient synagogue and the piles of round stones the Romans catapulted into the town during their attack. It is also possible to see that the houses were built in terraces,

with the roof of one forming part of the floor of the one above it, just as in modern Israeli construction.

THE site's link to Christianity is more ambiguous. I pondered over this connection after receiving a very handsome booklet published by the Golan Tourist Association entitled *A Golan Pilgrim's Companion* by Yadin Roman, editor of *Erez* magazine.

Sites such as Kursi and Beth-Saida are specifically mentioned in the New Testament, but what about Gamla? Roman's answer provides not just an interesting interpretation of the New Testament, but an insight into Jewish history.



Roman sees Gamla as the personification of the Jewish yearning for the Messiah circa the first century CE. He explains that the kingdom of God had commenced and that redemption would come only if the Jews rebelled against their pagan oppressors.

according to Josephus, was the leader of the Zealots, also known as the Sicarii, who believed that the kingdom of God had commenced and that redemption would come only if the Jews rebelled against their pagan oppressors.

The author argues that the



At the site you can clearly see the remains of the ancient synagogue (left) and the piles of round stones (above) the Romans catapulted into the town during their attack.

Romans felt they had to subdue Gamla because it was the home of the leader of the rebellion. The battle was fierce, and when the Jews saw that the Romans had won, they gathered at the highest point in the city - men, women and children - and leapt to their deaths.

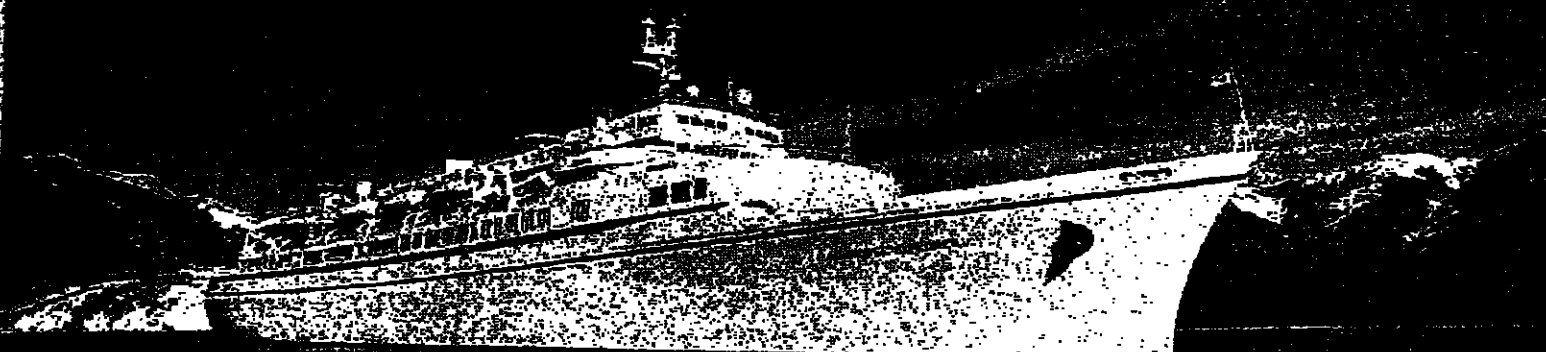
It was in the context of this revolt, Roman says, that some of the best-known sayings of Jesus were uttered. Thus, it was the Zealots' refusal to pay taxes to the Roman pagans that led Jesus

to say, "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

It is also in reference to the Zealots that Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." For Roman, this is a clear refutation of the teaching that the kingdom of heaven can be achieved through fighting and bloodshed.

The Gamla National Park is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entry is NIS 17 for adults, NIS 8 for children.

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THE PRIZES:

GRAND PRIZE: ALASKA ADVENTURE

The Grand Prize Drawing will be held on March 10, 1999. The winner's name will be published in the March 11 edition of The Jerusalem Post.

- The Alaska Adventure includes:
- 1) Two free round-trip Tel Aviv-Yasovev airfare tickets
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OTHER PRIZES:

Starting February 10 and continuing until March 10, 1999, the daily cartoon entry form will be drawn each day and awarded a bearing cartoon prize. The names of the winners will be published daily in the newspaper. Daily prizes will remain in effect for the Grand Prize Drawing.

THE CONTEST:

Every day for the next 6 weeks, (January 22 - March 4) The Jerusalem Post will print one of the six cartoon coupons shown to the right - in the newspaper. Collect a different cartoon coupon each day, by clipping it out and pasting it on the entry form. When all 6 cartoons have been attached to the corresponding spaces on the form, send to: Alaska c/o The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000. You will then be eligible to win fabulous prizes.

Contest Entry Form

Collect the 6 different cartoon coupons that will appear in The Jerusalem Post from January 22 - March 4, 1999, attach them to the corresponding spaces on the entry form below and send to: Alaska c/o The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem, 91000. You may enter as many times as you wish. All entries must reach The Jerusalem Post by March 8, 1999. Only fully-completed forms will be entered into the draw. No photocopies or faxes will be accepted.

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Jerusalem Post employees and their family members are ineligible. The terms and conditions of this contest may differ from those in the North American Edition.

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Weekender Leisure

It's in the jeans



Flair

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Trends may come and trends may go, but jeans are here forever. Anyone who needs proof should take a glance around the street, the bus, the synagogue or even check out a local wedding party. Almost everywhere you go, people are wearing jeans. Unlike some other fashions, jeans bridge gender and generation gaps with ease and are found in the closets of toddlers, teens and adults.

Though Levi's will always be able to claim credit as the originators of brand-name jeans, there are so many other labels associated with this particular category of clothing that its future is definitely assured. Some of the internationally recognized labels include Calvin Klein, Stefanel, Ralph Lauren, Lee, Wrangler, Timberland, Diesel and Versace.

Often the difference between two almost identical pairs of jeans is not in the workmanship or the quality of the fabric, but whether the labels are upmarket, middle-market or downmarket.

After all, no one would expect to pay the same for Versace as they do for Lee.

Several brands of jeans and other items of clothing are produced by VF, the American textile conglomerate that has been operating in Israel and elsewhere in the Middle East for just over a year. Last week, VF Israel showed the new spring-summer collections of Wrangler and Lee jeans to a large audience of buyers who are going to merchandise them all over the country.

Given that most jeans, whether skin-tight or wide-legged, have hip yokes, layered pockets, fly fronts and heavy stitching, it's not all that easy to make a jeans collection look interesting. It becomes doubly difficult when most of the tops they're paired with are plain T-shirts, polo shirts or golf shirts.

So, to add spice to the presentation at the Tel Aviv Hilton, VF employed several dancers who emulated monkeys as they leapt from a backdrop of scaffolding onto the stage.

Whoever continues to associate jeans with the stiff, sturdy fabric of work clothes would have been surprised at the unfettered agility of the dancers.

The choice was gratifying – from the traditional blue, to beiges,



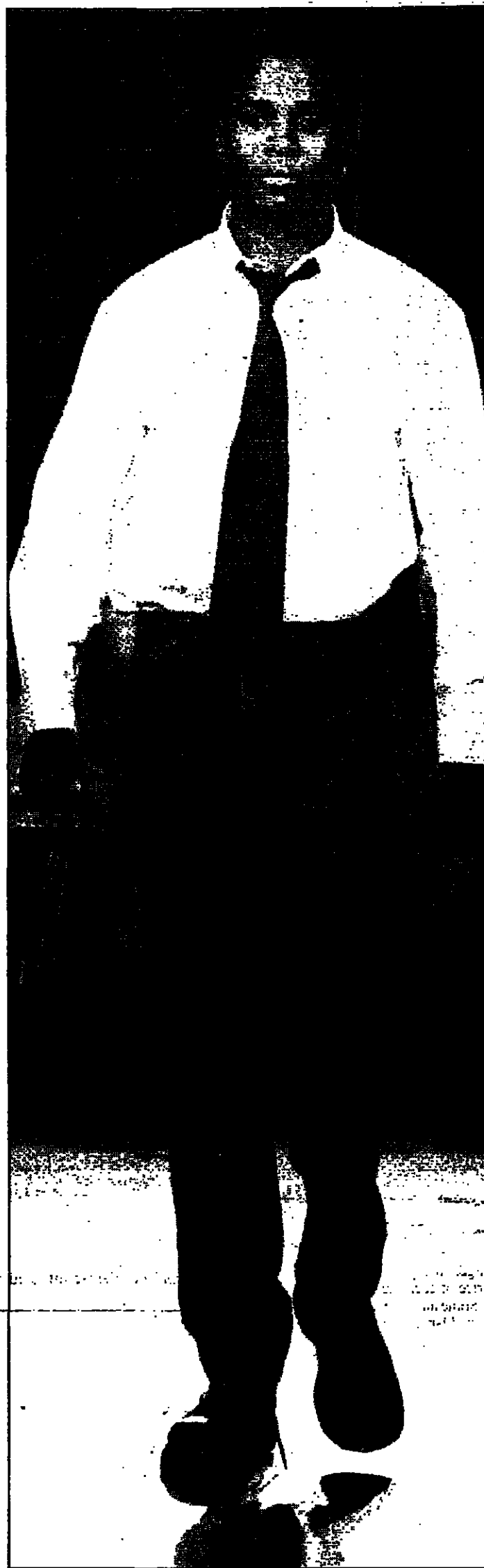
browns, greens, black and white. The pants were cut straight, baggy, hipster, flare – you name it.

There were sloppy Bermudas, finely striped dungarees, cuffed capris, romper suits and little blue denim short shorts that were a hybrid of the innocent and the profane.

Of the tops, the most interesting were embroidered rodeo shirts and printed slip tops. It was fasci-

nating to see how loose hanging T-shirts and golf shirts developed an instantly smart appearance when tucked into belted waistbands.

The wonderful thing about jeans is that you can wear them forever without feeling self-conscious. On the contrary, once you've paraded in a dressy outfit a dozen or so times you start worrying that everyone you know has seen it.



Basic Blues

From the Wrangler and Lee spring-summer collections



Bridge Romance at the table

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
North-South in love

North (She)
♠ 4 3 2
♥ K
♦ A K Q 6 5 2
♣ A Q J

West East
♠ K ♠ Q 10 8 5
♥ 9 6 5 ♥ 8 7 4 3 2
♦ J 10 9 8 7 4 3 ♦
♣ 7 3 ♣ 9 8 6 5

South (He)
♠ A J 9 7 6
♥ A Q J 10
♦
♣ K 10 4 2

South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♦ double pass
3 ♥ pass 4 NT pass
5 NT pass 7 ♠ (all pass)

Opening lead: ♦J

One of the best reasons for unmarried people to play bridge is that a night out at the duplicate bridge club makes for the perfect date.

For at least three to four hours you can stare across the table at the gal or guy you are courting and converse between hands. And if you are shy, you can simply stick to bridge jargon. Indeed, if you play a hand better than the rest of the field, he/she will be very pleased to be your partner and it may even set the stage for bigger things to come.

Today's deal comes from a New York duplicate game played many years ago on February 29 – Sadie Hawkins Day (the day when it's customary for women to ask men for their hand in marriage).

North-South were a young couple on their fourth date and the South player, a young man, had the romantic notion of asking her to marry him after the game – if

all went well at the bridge table, that is.

The bidding, however, did not go well for South, and he couldn't help but notice a very unhappy face across the table when he pulled his partner's penalty double of three diamonds. No doubt North was frustrated, but she resolved to bid a slam anyway. She bid Blackwood, but heard the strange reply of five notrump. This was a mistake on South's part. He was trying to be scientific, showing two aces and a void with his five-notrump bid. She misread it and, shrugging her shoulders, put her partner into an impossible grand slam. "Make it!" she said, as she put the dummy down, each diamond hitting the table with a thud.

Poor South was in trouble. How could he make all 13 tricks with that trump suit? He said a silent prayer and covered the jack of diamonds with the queen. East ruffed with the 5 of spades and he overruffed with the 6. He led a heart to dummy's king and then played the king of diamonds. East ruffed again, this time with the 8 of spades. South overruffed with the 9 and noticed his partner's quizzical look: "This was a funny way to draw trumps."

Back he went to dummy with a club to the ace and now he led the ace of diamonds. East ruffed this time with the 10 of spades and he overruffed with the jack. Finally he led the ace of spades and down came the king and queen! It was a miracle, as North's eyes lit up in admiration of her partner's style.

Little did she realize that East was the catalyst in this adventure. Had East refused to ruff or ruffed with the queen at any point, the slam would have failed. But her hero made the slam, and he didn't have to pop the question – she proposed to him!

Matthew Granovetter can be reached by e-mail at matt@bridgetoday.com.

Chess Garry Kasparov polls a deserving #2

By NIGEL SHORT

THERE were no major surprises in the first substantial chess poll to be conducted on the Internet; the strongest chessplayer in the world was voted the most likely winner of this year's Hoogovens tournament in Holland. And Garry Kasparov came a distant second.

By now even Garry might have noticed that he has something of a credibility problem; how can he justify calling himself world champion when he has not defended his title since 1995 and he is (rightly) perceived to be Vishy Anand's inferior in tournament play?

Garry has a very powerful and impressive personality, but do not be deceived by his macho-sounding declaration, "I challenge Anand to challenge me!" It is a call made from a position of great weakness, which Anand would be unwise to accept. If the Indian does not take up the gauntlet, and he almost certainly has more sense, Kasparov will have no obvious escape from a mire of his own making.

As for Hoogovens, no one knows what will happen, but my money is on a dramatic finish. The early leader, however, was Anand, who won this nicely played game in the second round against Jeroen Piket, one of the home contingent.

White: Vishy Anand
Black: Jeroen Piket
Hoogovens, 17.01.99

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Jeroen, almost invariably these days, defends the Spanish Opening, of which he has a good general knowledge. He is not noted, however, for contributing much to the development of its theory, being usually content to follow established lines.

3. ... a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 0-0 9. h3 Na5 10. Bc2 e5 11. d4 Nd7. A continuation with which Paul Keres racked up several points during the 1962 Curacao Candidates Tournament, most memorably in a brilliant game against Mikhail Tal. Subsequently improvements have been found for White and today it is no longer particularly fashionable, which is perhaps a good reason for trying it.

12. Nbd2 cxd4 13. cxd4 Nc6 14. Nb3. In the above-mentioned encounter Tal tried 14. a3?; cxd4 15. Nb3 Ndc5 16. Nf4d4 Bf6 and after the inaccurate 17. Bd2?; Nxd4 18. Nxd4 Nd3! found himself

in a difficult situation.

14. ... a5 15. Bd3 Bc6 16. d5 Nb4 17. Bf1 a4.

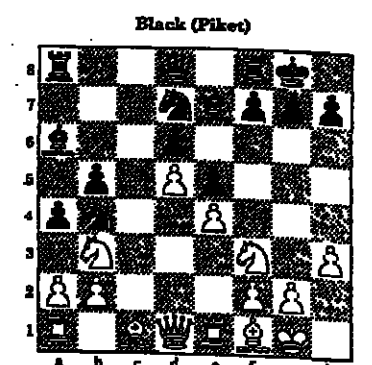
(See diagram)

18. Nb4d7? Alas, this move is not blessed with originality but it is interesting none the less. The clumsy position of the b4 knight makes this audacious self-immolation possible. 18. ... cxd4 19. a3 Nxd5!

For better or for worse Black had to plunge into the complications beginning with 19. ... Nc5 possibly leading to (A) 20. Nxd4 Bf6 21. axb4 (21. Bc3 Bxd4 22. Bxd4 Nb3 23. axb4 Nxa1 24. Qg4 f6 25. Rxa1 offers good compensation but a rook is a rook.) 21. ... Bxd4 22. bxc5 dxc5 with a big mess; or (B) 20. axb4 20. ... Nb3 21. Rb1 Qb6 with the idea of planting a rook on c4 with the greatest of speed. Not an easy position to judge without further analysis.

20. cxd5 Bf6 21. Nxd4 Nc5 22. Nc6 the knight makes its presence felt in a most uncomfortable manner. 22. ... Qb6 23. Bf4! Rf6 23. ... Bxb2 24. Ra2 Bc3 25. Re3 Bf6 26. Bxd6 is nasty. 24. Qc2 Nb3 25. Rad1 Qc7 26. Re4! A by no means obvious way of increasing the initiative.

26. ... Raed 27. Qx4 Bxb2 28. Re1 Qc7 29. Qb4. Protecting and attacking simultaneously. 29. ... Bf6 30. Bxb6 a6 31. Bc3. The difference in activity is striking; the a6 bishop is particularly miserably placed.



White (Anand) to play
The position after Piket's 17th move

31. ... Re8 32. Rxe8+ Qxe8 33. Be7 Bb2 34. Qe4 g6 35. Bb4 Qxe4.

The endgame offers not the slightest respite but there was no better alternative. 36. Bxe4 Bf6 37. d6 Bc3 38. Bc3 Bc7 39. Nb8 Bc6 40. Bxb5 Nd4 41. Bxa4.

One by one they fall. Recognising the futility of further resistance Piket called it a day.

© Telegraph group

TASE at 7-week high • FTSE soars 2.5% on results

SHARES

TEL AVIV

The Maof index rose yesterday to its highest in seven weeks, led by Bezeq, which gained on prospects the government may water down a plan for cuts in call charges and some reorganization. Chemical companies rose after Dead Sea Bromine Co. jumped. The company said its fourth-quarter net income rose 10 percent to NIS 37.1 million (\$9.2 million).

The Maof Index of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's 25 largest companies gained for a fifth day, rising 0.98 percent to 320.71.

The index rose 0.84 percent Tuesday.

Dead Sea Bromine jumped 5.86 percent to 27.10. The chemical maker rose to its highest level since December 9 after announcing fourth-quarter earnings. Parent company Israel Chemicals rose 2.46 percent to 4.16. Dead Sea Works, another subsidiary of Israel Chemicals, rose 1.18 percent to 9.40.

Bezeq rose 2.66 percent to 13.90. Bezeq is trying to persuade the government to reconsider a committee's proposal to reduce local call charges. Analysts said the government is unlikely to force all of the committee's recommendations, which include efficiency measures, on the company.

Bank Leumi rose 1.85 percent to 6.05. Lehman Brothers on Tuesday bought 2.5 percent of Israel's second-biggest bank for \$51.5 million and then sold the shares to its clients. Lehman, the fourth-largest US investment bank, sold the 36 million shares to a number of international and Israeli investors within hours.

Elbit Systems rose 0.92 percent to 54.80. The military equipment company was rated "buy" in new

coverage by analyst Catherine Lemaire at Bank Hapoalim.

EUROPE

The UK's FTSE 100 stock index powered to record highs yesterday, as a surge of investment demand was fired by recent strong corporate results and a multi-million pound bonanza of cash handouts from leading firms.

With weakness in sterling against the dollar also encouraging buying of heavyweight stocks such as Glaxo, with heavy exposure to the US, the FTSE closed up 152.4 points or 2.5 percent at 6,307.6 – surpassing its previous record close of 6,179.0 set on July 20.

Gainers in the leading UK index – which also set a record intra-day peak of 6,316.6 – outweighed decliners by more than four to one.

Total trading volume reached 982 million shares by the market's 16:30 GMT close – moderate by recent standards – while a firm early performance on Wall Street also reassured sentiment. The Dow was up some 30 points at the London close.

Since the end of last year, the FTSE 100 has risen by some 7.2 percent.

For once it was domestic factors rather than the trend on Wall Street, which were the dominant influence in London.

Analysts said the UK market had been reassured by the recent spate of results from top companies such as British Telecom, Glaxo, and banking groups including NatWest and Barclays.

A series of special payouts – most recently from gas supplier and producer Centrica, which announced a special 12 pence per share dividend totalling 530 million pounds – was also fuelling cash into investors' pockets, money that was being reinvested in leading shares.

ASIA

Hong Kong stocks rallied, posting their biggest two-day gains in seven weeks, as HSBC Holdings Plc rose on hopes increased bad-debt provisions and a possible share buyback will pave the way for improved earnings.

The Hang Seng Index rose 243.58, or 2.6 percent, to 9,677.57, a four-week high. Its two-day gain of 4.9 percent was the biggest since January 7. HSBC, the London-based parent of the territory's two largest lenders, made up more than a quarter of the index's rise. It announced plans for a US listing, sought approval for a share buyback and raised its dividend when reporting lower-than-expected profits on Monday.

"The earnings are history, and people are looking to the future – the US listing, stock buyback, increased dividend," said Antony Mak, director at Vickers Ballas (HK) Ltd.

In other markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average fell 1.0 percent to 14,355.45 as Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. declined on lower-than-expected profit. Taiwan's TWSE index rose 0.9 percent as bullish projections for Internet growth buoyed computer-related stocks. South Korea's Kospi index fell 0.9 percent, after Standard & Poor's Corp. downgraded its credit ratings on two banks.

WALL STREET

NEW YORK (AP) – Stocks beat a hasty retreat yesterday in the final hour of trading to close lower, after bond prices slid and pushed interest rates higher.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 144.75 points – or by 1.5 percent – at 9,399.67.

The Dow opened softer but quickly rallied in the morning, peaking at just over 9,600, or up 55 points, before trimming its gains in late morning and then

TRADING FLOORS

Maof 320.71 ▲ 0.98%
Dow Jones 9399.67 ▼ 1.5%
FTSE 6179.0 ▲ 2.5%
Nikkei 14355.45 ▼ 1%

staging an outright retreat in the afternoon. "Although (stock) market internals don't look so bad, the weakness in bonds is a problem," said Scott Bleier, chief investment strategist at Prime Charter. "There doesn't seem to be any great desire to one thing or another, except that bonds are lower."

The price of the 30-year bond was down more than a point, or \$10 for every \$1,000 valuation. Its yield, which moves opposite the price, moved above the critical 5.5 to 5.51%.

The rise in interest rates was particularly injurious to technology and financial stocks, which had been providing some leadership to the upside in recent sessions. The Standard and Poor's 500 fell 17.77 to 1,253.41, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index dropped 36.97 to 2,339.38.

CURRENCIES

The dollar was little changed against the euro and yen, buoyed by speculation the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates in coming months, while rates in Europe may be cut and those in Japan stay at record low levels.

COMMODITIES

METALS
Platinum continued firm in

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan Tuesday said the US economy is expanding at a "surprisingly robust" pace with scant inflation. He also fanned talk of a coming rate rise by suggesting last year's cuts may have been more than were needed.

"The market is thinking about the possibility of rising interest rates in the US and falling interest rates in Europe," said Armin Linde, a currency trader at Bankhaus Hermann Lampe in Düsseldorf. "They think that the economy in the United States is doing much better than Europe."

The dollar was little changed against the euro, leaving the single currency at \$1.1013 from \$1.1004 late Tuesday and leaving the euro down 6 percent since it was introduced in January. The dollar also was at 121.22 yen from 121.26 yen late Tuesday.

The British pound tumbled to a 16-month low against the dollar on expectations that the difference between U.K. and US interest rates will narrow in the coming months, dimming the pound's allure. The pound fell to \$1.6011 from \$1.6143.

Still, the dollar gave up earlier gains against major currencies as concern the Fed may raise rates in the coming months weighed on US Treasuries. The yield on the benchmark 30-year bond rose 1 basis point to 5.44 percent, its highest level since August 24.

"There's nervousness about how the asset market will deal with Greenspan," said Claudio Piron, a treasury economist at Standard Chartered.

Global investors selling US bonds often convert dollar proceeds to home currencies.

ENERGY

Brent crude oil for April delivery was little changed, falling as much as 9 cents to \$10.85 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange. A weekly report showed US crude oil supplies rose 1.9 million barrels

Europe yesterday, fixing at a seven-month high in the morning while the rest of the precious metals complex remained subdued, dealers said.

Platinum fixed at \$384.00 an ounce in London, its highest level since July 21, 1998. Spot platinum was unchanged from the New York close at \$383.00/\$385.00.

Dealers said one-month platinum lease rates were at 12 percent yesterday compared to Tuesday's 11 percent and about 4 percent a week ago.

A London dealer said platinum was sold off aggressively by one New York house on Tuesday but it remained well bid overnight and in Europe in the morning.

"We can only see higher spot prices today because of the deep backwardation," the dealer said. "Other dealers said the spot platinum price is well supported by the forward markets, while the next resistance level is hard to choose."

"Next resistance is hard to pick, although psychological resistance is bound to be seen at the \$400 mark," said N.M. Rothschild & Son treasury analyst Helen McCaffrey.

Palladium held steady but did not follow platinum higher. It was last quoted at \$348.00/\$353.00 an ounce from the New York close at \$345.00/\$350.00. Gold moved lower in early European business. It was quoted at \$286.00/\$286.50 a troy ounce from the New York close at \$287.00/\$287.50.

Dealers said gold remained in a tight range, although some activity could be expected ahead of yesterday's over-the-counter (OTC) options expiry.

COMMODITIES

METALS

Platinum continued firm in

DILBERT

By Scott Adams

OUR EXECUTIVES HAVE STARTED THEIR ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS.

THIS INVOLVES SITTING IN A ROOM WITH INADEQUATE DATA UNTIL AN ILLUSION OF KNOWLEDGE IS ATTAINED.

THEN WE'LL REORGANIZE, BECAUSE THAT'S ALL WE KNOW HOW TO DO!

HAVE YOU TRIED IT WITH A MAGAZINE?

TO 334.1 million barrels. The American Petroleum Institute's inventory report showed crude oil supplies rose in line with analysts' expectations, damping hopes for a speedy recovery in oil prices. (News agencies)

Bond bulls puzzled by market rout

New York – Why the big sell-off? That is what bond bulls want to know after sifting through what they view as even-handed comments about the economy from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Greenspan, in a semiannual testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, said there is "no evidence of any upturn in inflation," even as the economy rolls along. He also indicated the Federal Reserve is as likely to cut interest rates as raise them, and predicted the economy will probably slow as the year goes on.

Yet none of those comments – which some investors took as bullish – prevented bonds from sinking. The 30-year Treasury bond fell 1 1/32 points, or \$10.31 per \$1,000 bond, pushing the yield up to 5.43 percent, near the highest since August.

"I'm struggling with the mar-

ket's reaction," said Scott Grannis, who helps manage about \$47 billion at Western Asset Management in Pasadena, California. "I don't see why people need to be so pessimistic at this point."

The losses were triggered when Greenspan acknowledged there is some question as to whether the Federal Reserve went too far in cutting rates last year to calm financial markets and avert a recession. The central bank lowered the target for overnight lending, or federal funds rate, to 4.75 percent in three quarter-point moves between late September and mid-November.

The Federal Reserve "must continue to evaluate, among other issues, whether the full extent of the policy easings undertaken last fall to address the seizing up of financial markets remains appropriate as those disturbances abate," Greenspan said.

Pessimists found reason for worry in Greenspan's "seemingly remorse" about the extent of the Federal Reserve cuts, said Alan Kral, who helps oversee \$10 billion at Trevor Stewart Burton & Jacobsen Inc.

That concern drove yields on two-year notes, the most sensitive to Federal Reserve rate expectations, up 10 basis points to 4.99 percent, the highest since August 26.

Yet bond bulls found enough good news to offset the bad. The testimony reflected "a pretty balanced view," said Kirk Mentzer, who helps oversee about \$10 billion at Star Bank NA in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Federal Reserve's latest economic forecast calls for the economy to grow at a 2.5 percent to 3 percent pace this year, down from its 3.9 percent pace in 1998. Greenspan said.

What's more, "recent experience

MARKETWATCH

By BETH WILLIAMS

does seem to suggest that the economy has become less inflation prone than in the past," thanks in part to increased productivity and a lack of pricing power by companies, Greenspan said. Subdued inflation means bonds will hold more of their value.

Mentzer at Star Bank predicts 30-year yields could fall to 5 percent as soon as April, and said he'll be buying longer-term Treasuries as new cash comes into his fund.

These days, though, bulls like Mentzer are outnumbered by investors who see a risk that the economy's robust pace will at some point quicken inflation and prompt a Federal Reserve rate increase.

That's made for a lousy Treasury market so far this year.

Individuals who invested in 30-year Treasuries at the start of the year are now sitting on a loss of 4.1 percent. Those who jumped in when yields fell to 3 1/2 percent in October 5 and held the bonds until now are sitting on a paper loss of 8 percent.

Financial market indicators, such as futures on Eurodollars, or dollars on deposit outside the US, also suggest traders see a growing chance the Federal Reserve will boost rates later this year.

The implied yield on the September contract for 90-day Eurodollars stands at 5.24 percent, up 10 basis points today and almost 45 basis points in the last month. That compares to the current three-month borrowing rate of 5 percent, and suggests some traders are looking for a quarter-point Federal Reserve increase by

the time the contract expires in mid-September.

The widening gap between the two-year note yield and the federal funds target also suggests investors see a greater chance for a Fed rate rise. The spread grew today to 24 1/2 basis points, its widest since December 9, 1997. For most of the past year the two-year yield traded below the federal funds target, as traders looked for lower rates from the central bank and snapped up Treasuries as a refuge from financial market turbulence in Asia.

"The bond market is doing a pretty good job convincing itself that we're going to get a tightening this year," said Grannis at Western Asset Management.

For his part, Grannis does not see how the Federal Reserve could increase rates as long as inflation stays subdued, as even the

reserve's own economists suggest it will.

The Federal Reserve's latest forecast, released today, calls for the consumer price index to rise 2 percent to 2.5 percent this year, up from 1998's 1.6 percent increase, and in line with the average of 2.45 percent over the past five years.

In addition, the economy, now in its eighth year of expansion, is likely to cool in the months ahead, making a rate cut more likely than an increase, Grannis said. As a result, he predicts 30-year yields could fall to 4.5 percent by year-end, even if they climb a bit first. Two-year yields may drop below 4 percent, he said.

Given his outlook for lower yields, Grannis said bonds at current levels may be too good to pass up. He's even considering adding some to his personal account.

"I'm getting ready to buy," Grannis said. (Bloomberg)

FINANCIAL MARKETS

TEL AVIV 100

LAST	CHANGE
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Alcoa Israel 1	2.5
Alcoa Israel 2	1.5
Alcoa Israel 3	1.5
Alcoa Israel 4	1.5
Alcoa Israel 5	1.5
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Alcoa Israel 72	1.5
Alcoa Israel 73	1.5
Alcoa Israel 74	1.5
Alcoa Israel 75	1.5
Alcoa Israel 76	1.5
Alcoa Israel 77	1.5
Alcoa Israel 78	1.5
Alcoa Israel 79	1.5
Alcoa Israel 80	1.5
Alcoa Israel 81	1.5
Alcoa Israel 82	1.5
Alcoa Israel 83	1.5
Alcoa Israel 84	1.5
Alcoa Israel 85	1.5
Alcoa Israel 86	1.5
Alcoa Israel 87	1.5
Alcoa Israel 88	1.5
Alcoa Israel 89	1.5
Alcoa Israel 90	1.5
Alcoa Israel 91	1.5
Alcoa Israel 92	1.5
Alcoa Israel 93	1.5
Alcoa Israel 94	1.5
Alcoa Israel 95	1.5
Alcoa Israel 96	1.5
Alcoa Israel 97	1.5
Alcoa Israel 98	1.5
Alcoa Israel 99	1.5
Alcoa Israel 100	1.5

REITZEL

LAST	CHANGE
Alcoa	5.1
Alcoa Israel 1	2.5
Alcoa Israel 2	1.5
Alcoa Israel 3	1.5
Alcoa Israel 4	1.5
Alcoa Israel 5	1.5
Alcoa Israel 6	1.5
Alcoa Israel 7	1.5
Alcoa Israel 8	1.5
Alcoa Israel 9	1.5
Alcoa Israel 10	1.5
Alcoa Israel 11	1.5
Alcoa Israel 12	1.5
Alcoa Israel 13	1.5
Alcoa Israel 14	1.5
Alcoa Israel 15	1.5
Alcoa Israel 16	1.5
Alcoa Israel 17	1.5
Alcoa Israel 18	1.5
Alcoa Israel 19	1.5
Alcoa Israel 20	1.5
Alcoa Israel 21	1.5
Alcoa Israel 22	1.5
Alcoa Israel 23	1.5
Alcoa Israel 24	1.5
Alcoa Israel 25	1.5
Alcoa Israel 26	1.5
Alcoa Israel 27	1.5
Alcoa Israel 28	1.5
Alcoa Israel 29	1.5
Alcoa Israel 30	1.5
Alcoa Israel 31	1.5
Alcoa Israel 32	1.5
Alcoa Israel 33	1.5
Alcoa Israel 34	1.5
Alcoa Israel 35	1.5
Alcoa Israel 36	1.5
Alcoa Israel 37	1.5
Alcoa Israel 38	1.5
Alcoa Israel 39	1.5
Alcoa Israel 40	1.5
Alcoa Israel 41	1.5
Alcoa Israel 42	1.5
Alcoa Israel 43	1.5
Alcoa Israel 44	1.5
Alcoa Israel 45	1.5
Alcoa Israel 46	1.5
Alcoa Israel 47	1.5
Alcoa Israel 48	1.5
Alcoa Israel 49	1.5
Alcoa Israel 50	1.5
Alcoa Israel 51	1.5
Alcoa Israel 52	1.5
Alcoa Israel 53	1.5
Alcoa Israel 54	1.5
Alcoa Israel 55	1.5
Alcoa Israel 56	1.5
Alcoa Israel 57	1.5
Alcoa Israel 58	1.5
Alcoa Israel 59	1.5
Alcoa Israel 60	1.5
Alcoa Israel 61	1.5
Alcoa Israel 62	1.5
Alcoa Israel 63	1.5
Alcoa Israel 64	1.5
Alcoa Israel 65	1.5
Alcoa Israel 66	1.5
Alcoa Israel 67	1.5
Alcoa Israel 68	1.5
Alcoa Israel 69	1.5
Alcoa Israel 70	1.5
Alcoa Israel 71	1.5
Alcoa Israel 72	1.5
Alcoa Israel 73	1.5
Alcoa Israel 74	1.5
Alcoa Israel 75	1.5
Alcoa Israel 76	1.5
Alcoa Israel 77	1.5
Alcoa Israel 78	1.5
Alcoa Israel 79	1.5
Alcoa Israel 80	1.5
Alcoa Israel 81	1.5
Alcoa Israel 82	1.5
Alcoa Israel 83	1.5
Alcoa Israel 84	1.5
Alcoa Israel 85	1.5
Alcoa Israel 86	1.5
Alcoa Israel 87	1.5
Alcoa Israel 88	1.5
Alcoa Israel 89	1.5
Alcoa Israel 90	1.5
Alcoa Israel 91	1.5
Alcoa Israel 92	1.5
Alcoa Israel 93	1.5
Alcoa Israel 94	1.5
Alcoa Israel 95	1.5

LAST	CHANGE	LAST	CHANGE		
Walter 1	1278	0.3	Shaw	463	0
Walter 2	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 3	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 4	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 5	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 6	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 7	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 8	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 9	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 10	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 11	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 12	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 13	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 14	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 15	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 16	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 17	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 18	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 19	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 20	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 21	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 22	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 23	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 24	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 25	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 26	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 27	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 28	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 29	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 30	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 31	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 32	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 33	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 34	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 35	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 36	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 37	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 38	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 39	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 40	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 41	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 42	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 43	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 44	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 45	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 46	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 47	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 48	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 49	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 50	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 51	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 52	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 53	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 54	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 55	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 56	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 57	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 58	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 59	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 60	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 61	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 62	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 63	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 64	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 65	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 66	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 67	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 72	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 74	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 96	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 100	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 102	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 104	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 105	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 106	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 107	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 108	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 109	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 111	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 112	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 113	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 114	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 116	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 127	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 128	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 130	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 131	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 138	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 140	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 141	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 142	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 143	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 144	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 145	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 146	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 148	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 151	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 152	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 153	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 154	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 155	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 156	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 157	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 158	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 176	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 177	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 178	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 180	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 182	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 183	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 184	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 185	275	0	Shaw	477	0
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Walter 187	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 188	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 189	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 190	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 191	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 192	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 193	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 194	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 195	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 196	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 197	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 198	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 199	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 200	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 201	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 202	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 203	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 204	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 205	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 206	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 207	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 208	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 209	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 210	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 211	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 212	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 213	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 214	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 215	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 216	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 217	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 218	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 219	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 220	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 221	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 222	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 223	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 224	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 225	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 226	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 227	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 228	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 229	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 230	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 231	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 232	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 233	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 234	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 235	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 236	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 237	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 238	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 239	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 240	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 241	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 242	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 243	275	0	Shaw	477	0
Walter 244	275	0	Shaw	47	

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (24.2.99)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	4.3134	4.3830	—	—	4.3504
U.S. dollar	4.9201	4.0850	3.96	4.14	4.0500
EU euro	4.4138	4.4850	—	—	4.4666
German mark	2.2598	2.2933	2.23	2.32	2.2859
Pound sterling	6.4444	6.5484	6.34	6.63	6.4972
French franc	0.6729	0.6838	0.66	0.69	0.6810
Japanese yen (100)	3.3121	3.3656	3.28	3.41	3.3357
Dutch florin	2.0029	2.0353	1.98	2.06	2.0270
Swiss franc	2.7728	2.8176	2.73	2.85	2.8030
Swedish krona	0.4982	0.5043	0.49	0.51	0.5011
Norwegian krona	0.5099	0.5182	0.50	0.53	0.5182
Denish krona	0.5937	0.6033	0.58	0.61	0.6009
Finnish mark	0.7428	0.7543	0.73	0.77	0.7513
Canadian dollar	2.6773	2.7305	2.64	2.75	2.6928
Australian dollar	2.5417	2.5827	2.50	2.61	2.5618
S. African rand	0.6461	0.6566	0.58	0.68	0.6538
Belgian franc (10)	1.0941	1.1118	1.08	1.12	1.1073
Austrian schilling (10)	3.2073	3.2591	3.16	3.30	3.2463
Italian lira (1000)	2.2795	2.3183	2.25	2.35	2.3070
Jordanian dinar	5.6620	5.7534	5.42	5.91	5.7042
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.15	1.22	1.1863
Irish punt	5.6044	5.6948	5.52	5.77	5.6719
Spanish peseta (100)	2.6528	2.6956	2.62	2.73	2.6847

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.

*Futures, Options,
 Stocks, Bonds
 and Mutual Funds*
 34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem
 Tel. 02-624-4963 Fax. 02-625-9515
<http://www.commstock.co.il>
 E-mail: commstock@pobox.com

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 on postcards only, addressed to
 Jerusalem Post Business Desk, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES		
	Last	Change
London (1)	4.3504	0
India (100)	1.06	0
Sw (100)	6.0972	0
Sch Mark (1)	2.3538	0
Yen (100)	2.11	0.01
Fr (100)	3.3257	0
Spain (100)	2.06	0
Italy (100)	2.8850	0
Den (100)	2.307	0
Nor (100)	5.7042	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES		
	Last	Change
Dow Jones	5336.07	+14.75
Transport	5307.44	+15.78
Indust	5207.44	+11.17
Comp	3037.54	+9.57
Transp	756.06	+0.49
Transport	481.57	+2.49
Comp	391.57	+4.49
Indust	824.35	+1.15
Indust	1282.41	+17.77
Transp	298.78	+1.12

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES		
	Last	Change
Gold (Apr)	289.2	+0.5
Silver (Mar)	3.373	+0.067
Platinum (Apr)	352.3	+0.3
Platinum (Mar)	350.6	+4.2
High-grade copper (Mar)	0.0705	+0.001

LONDON METAL FIXES		
	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	289.1	+0.50
Gold PM fix	287.4	+0.7
Silver fix	350.0	+0.5
(Spot metal fixings are from approximately 22.30 time zone. All others are closing quote.)		

SOURCE: SAP COMSTOCK		
	Last	Change
Silver: spot	3.41	-0.06

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Gold PM fix	287.4	+0.7
Silver fix	350.0	+0.5
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	Last	Change
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	Last	Change
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	Last	Change
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Gold PM fix	287.4	+0.7
Silver fix	350.0	+0.5
(Spot metal fixings are from approximately 22.30 time zone. All others are closing quote.)		

SOURCE: SAP COMSTOCK		
	Last	Change
Silver: spot	3.41	-0.06

LONDON METAL FIXES		
	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	289.1	+0.50
Gold PM fix	287.4	+0.7
Silver fix	350.0	+0.5
(Spot metal fixings are from approximately 22.30 time zone. All others are closing quote.)		

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Thursday, February 25
EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
 Jerusalem: Super Pharm, 3 Hahelitalim, 824-8244; Balsam, Seilah e-Din, 827-2315; Shuaifat, Shuaifat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldewa, Herod's Gate, 828-2058.
 Tel Aviv: Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 841-3730; New Pharm Gen Ha'ir, 771-0410; Givrol, 827-9317.
 Ramat Gan: Yehonatan, 484-4441; Karmel, Karmel, 484-4441; Yehonatan, 484-4441; Karmel, Karmel, 484-4441.
 Netanya: Turat Hahin Mercabi, 75-5010; Sela, 75-5010.

**Haiifa: Superpharm Lev Hahinatrat, 53 Hahinatrat, 841-8437; Hadas, 53 Hadas, 826-2573.
 Kiryat Araz, Motzkin, 64 Moshe Goshen, Kiryat Motzkin, 873-7243.
 Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Mekazim, 6 Mesk (near Sderot Hagalim).
 Herzliya Pithua, 954-6903. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 857-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

DUTY HOSPITALS

**Jerusalem: Blue Hahin Internal, ENT; Shuaifat (surgeon), orthopedics; Hadas (surgeon), orthopedics; Hadas (surgeon), orthopedics; Hadas (surgeon), orthopedics.
 Kiryat Araz (pediatrics, ophthalmology).
 Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center.**

**Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics);
Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.**

**POLICE 100
FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101**

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 In most parts
of the country. In addition:

Ashdod 6551355	Kfar Sava 9602222
Bat Yam 6551339	Natanya 9612203
Be'er Sheva 9274787	Netanya 9604444
Bnei Brak 6525133	Petah Tikva 9511111
Bnei Brak 9505533	Rafaeli 9451333
Bnei Brak 9524414	Rishon 9452333
Haifa 9512233	Sderot 9203333
Jerusalem 9525133	Tel Aviv 9400111
Karmiel 9584444	Tiberias 9704444

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.	03-96- (Aratz) 849-00- Karm (Karm) 3444- 06-63 645-4- Chislev 02-66- dentist W2-60- 02-66- 6310- 2495- Jerusalem 02-561-0303 03-0301; Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (chil- dren); Tel Aviv 03-5793; Rishon LeZion
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-886112; Haifa 04-867-2222
 Tel-Aviv 03-827-2222; BeerSheva 05-
 787-2222; Jerusalem 02-862-5110.
 -886113: Haifa 04-887-770 (Arabic: 958-
 887-770; Kfar Sava 09-787-4555; Hadera
 -6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-
 222).
 Center for Religious Women
 -57445, 24-hour service, confir-
 mation guaranteed.
 Guidelines for battered women
 -4111, 03-548-1133, 07-637-
 18-855-0806.
 -57445, 24 hours (Tel. hours), Tel.
 -4111, 03-548-1917 (mes-
 sage) 625-5568, Haifa 083-0533,
 13-1977.
 Jewish Medical Organization -
 Cancer Association support ser-

HERE TO GO

TEL AVIV
Museums
TEL AVIV MUSEUM
Years of Israel
the Joseph Herta
Collection. Avia
Hedva Ser - A
Jezel Israëli,
Chronicler of
children's exhibi

HELENA RUBIN
FOR CONTEMPORARY
Edge - New Art
Column in the
Columbus 10
10-m-2 p-2
Education Center
3155/8

EJUM OF ART. Ninety
Art - selection from
Israel Phoenix
for *Arizka* - drawings,
Tapestries,
Isaac Israëls:
"A Point of View" -
Collection.

ISTEIN PAVILION
ORARY ART. On the
From Private
ance. Hours: 10 a.m.-
10 p.m. Fri., Sat.
Keyerhoff Art
ar, Tel. (03) 691-

100 DAYS SPECIAL TOURISM ADVERTISING

WHAT TO DO IN ISRAEL

MONKEY PARK ISRAEL
Adventures for all the family to enjoy
Watch hundreds of monkeys frolicking in a jungle and forest-like atmosphere!
Giant jungle gym, Tarzan's House and many other activities. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tel: 06-7230588
25 min. drive from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

WHAT TO DO IN ISRAEL

The City of David
Relive King David's Jerusalem 3,000 years ago...
Descend into a water cistern, walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel, encounter the new excavations.
For information, call 1-800-252423 or 02-626-0280

WHAT TO DO IN ISRAEL

Travel with the professionals
Guided Tours * Hotels * Cruises
Package deals to Egypt (4 days \$99) to Jordan (\$139)
Tourist bus service to Amman and Cairo
MAHAGI TRAVEL & TOURISM
139 Ibn Gabirol St., Tel Aviv
Tel: 03-604-1811 Fax: 03-604-2884

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My Chocolates
Hand-made, low calorie, parve Belgian chocolates
(Also with Badatz Hashgacha)
Exclusive Gifts & Pens
Waterman * Cross * Sheaffer
Dan Pearl (Hotel) Shopping Center
(across from Jaffa Gate), Jerusalem
Tel: 02-622-6685 or 053-843-329
(We deliver)

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Contact us for the best deals at all categories of hotels
LONDON, PARIS, AMSTERDAM
Great flight, package and car hire prices
Theatre tickets in London
Internet: www.regent.co.il
E-mail: regent@actcom.co.il
Tel: 03-5272705
Fax: 03-5272708

WHERE TO RENT A CAR

CAL-AUTO
For the Best Deal in Town - We offer you more
Special season/weekend rates
Phone Tel Aviv: 03-6391307
Tel Aviv: 03-5370511
We will deliver the car to you

WHERE TO RENT A CAR

IN7 KLEIN CAR
For the best & most reliable service
Special offers available
Delivery & Airport service

Where to stay in Israel

ARAD

HOTEL INBAR - 103 modern designed rooms. Offers restaurant, lobby bar, spa, treatment rooms, indoor heated swimming pool, banquet & conference rooms. "Gateway to the Desert" 20 mins from the Dead Sea. Tel: 07-9773303, Fax: 07-9773322

GALILEE

MES AMMIN Kibbutz Hotel - This uniquely European village in the Galilee, offers Hotel, Hotel and apartment situated in beautiful botanical gardens. Delicious kosher food. Book one of our "Classical weekend musical packages". Tel: 04-995 0099, Fax: 04-995 0099.

GALILEE - UPPER

KIBBUTZ HOTEL, Kfar Giladi - 180 air-conditioned rooms, all with shower, bath, telephone, radio, and TV, kosher cuisine, outdoor & indoor heated swimming pools, sport & health club. Tel: 06-690 0000, Fax: 06-690 0069.

AIR-CONDITIONED ROOMS, near the sources of the Jordan, and the Golan Heights. Tel: 06-694 3012, Fax: 052-828 400. Tel: 06-694 1274, Fax: 052-825 84. Tel: 06-694 4767, Fax: 052-817 719.

MAAYAN COUNTRY LODGE - 24 lovely air-conditioned units, kitchenette, TV, double rooms for families, lawns and barbecue stands. Discounts for many sites near by. Special prices for the low season. Kibbutz Maayan Baruch - Tel: 06-695 4700

GOLAN HEIGHTS

MOTEL GOLSHIE HAHERMON - Sagron Family Neve Aviv - 06-698 1531, 050-246 540. The closest place to the ski resort, with all conveniences, comfortable atmosphere and full Israeli breakfast. Special package deal during the ski season.

JERUSALEM

ADDAR SUITE HOTEL - New luxurious suite hotel, located in the heart of Jerusalem. Each suite has its own balcony, satellite television, two telephone extensions, equipped kitchenette, Jacuzzi bathroom. Tel: 02-6263111 Fax: 02-6260791

ACROSS LEV YERUSHALAYIM HOTEL - private holiday apartment large, luxurious, quiet, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, huge living room, 2 terraces, separate kosher kitchen, fully equipped, 4/5 pers, short/medium term: min; 10 days. Tel/Fax: 972-2-563 0564.

ALON HOLIDAY APARTMENTS - new 5 star studios, in the very center of Jerusalem, air conditioned, kitchenette, private telephone, top design, completely furnished. Tel: 02-625-0002, Fax: 02-625-0008. E-mail: alon@n-hiv.com

LEV YERUSHALAYIM HOTEL - centrally located on King George Street, suites available one or 2 bedrooms plus living room, kitchenette, dining area, sleeps up to six very competitive rates. Glatt Kosher restaurants health club sauna & Jacuzzi. Tel: 02-585 1891 or 571-1866, Fax: 02-585-4372, e-mail: kaplan@netvision.net

MOUNT ZION HOTEL - next to Old City; family plan: Restaurants, Coffeshop, Bar, Healthclub; all large Citadels face Old City - WOW! Internet: www.mountain.co.il Tel: 02-568 9555, Fax: 02-673 1425, e-mail: hotel@mountzion.co.il

PIZGAT SHOSHAN - beautiful new apartment hotel. The perfect place to enjoy nature and visit Jerusalem. Two bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen, fully finished, A/C, TV, phone. Special deal for long stays. Tel: 02-5338225, Fax: 02-5340282, e-mail: info@shoshan.co.il

TIMES SQUARE RESIDENCE - Prestigious Talbich neighborhood, 19 Jabotinsky Street, near the major hotels, luxurious apartments, 2 and 5 rooms (up to 10 persons), fully equipped, kosher kitchens. Tel: 02-561-1236, Fax: 02-561-1235

RAMOT 2 PRIVATE - Pleasant, fully furnished 2-room apartment w/garden. (Linen provided). Country setting. Magnificent forest view. Convenient transportation. Affordable daily/weekly prices. Tel: 02-586 5573, e-mail: rosiel@shani.net

JORDAN VALLEY

AFIKI NOFESH KIBBUTZ AFKIM - Vacation apartments & rooms. Kosher cuisine. 3 minutes from the Kinneret. Special offer for November: Sun-Thurs: 95 NIS, Weekend: 120 NIS. Prices per person per room Tel: 06-6754191/1 Fax: 06-6754191

NETANYA

MIZPE YAM HOTEL - situated on the Mediterranean, 35 rooms all with bath, toilets, air-conditioned, telephone, TV, video & radio in every room, dining room, kosher, intimate bar, elevator, sun terrace on the roof, parking, family atmosphere. Tel/Fax: 09-882 3730.

SDOT YAM - CAESAREA

KEF YAM - Mediterranean Tourism offers a dream vacation which includes: Holiday apts., private beach, glass bottom boat, archaeology, tornado boat. Call for reservations: 06-636444/70, Fax: 06-636 2211. www.kef-yam.co.il

TEL AVIV

THE ALEXANDER all suites hotel - luxury, central, by the beach. 1 & 2 bdrms + fully equipped kitchens. Parking. Fitness room. Short and long stays. Daily restaurant - kosher leMahadim. 3 Nevekes St., Tel Aviv. Tel: 03-5462222, Fax: 03-5469346, E-mail: alexander@netvision.net

LAGUR BAYR luxurious apartments in the center of Tel Aviv near Dizengoff Center. Studio apartments for 2-3 people including a kitchenette, air-conditioning & cable TV. 138 Dizengoff St., Tel Aviv Tel: 03-527 2596 Fax: 03-524 7033

TRAVELERS' HOSTEL

The best room and beds for rent, on daily, weekly, monthly terms from 30 NIS a night, 120 NIS for private rooms. 47 Ben Yehuda St., Tel: 03-5272108, 5232451, Fax: 03-5237261

Where to Eat

JERUSALEM

ANGELO RISTORANTE ITALIANO - Frommer's 1998 Guide says, "The most superb pasta in the country..." Also fresh fish & Roman specialties. Kosher Dairy. Outstanding business lunch 12-5 p.m. NIS 35. 9 Horkanos. Closed Friday. For reservations. Tel: 02-623 6065.

DARNA - "Our home is your home." Authentic Moroccan Hospitality, KOSHER. Business lunch: salads, couscous, dessert, traditional mint tea. Only NIS 69 with this ad. Open 12:00-3:00 p.m., 6:00-midnight. 3 Horkanos St. Tel: 02-624 5408.

EUCALYPTUS - The taste of Israel from Biblical Days. Rave reviews! Excellent meat, fish & vegetarian dishes enhanced by a masterful use of herbs and spices. Luncheon specials. Kosher. NEW ADDRESS: 4 Kfar Saba (City Hall Complex). Tel: 02-624 4331.

HECHAL SHLOMO - RESTAURANT/CATERERS serving you the best, freshest, most delicious food in an exclusive environment. Functions for up to 150. Brit Milahs, Bar Mitzvahs, 7 Brachos, special occasions, 58 King George St., Glatt Kosher/meat. Tel: 02-622 3312.

MARYAD HAKSAMIN ORIENTAL RESTAURANT - Mid-Eastern and Yemenite food: Kosher/meat open for lunch & dinner till 11:00 p.m.; Sun-Thurs., Fri. till 3:00 p.m. 16 King George St., (next to Carvel). Tel: 02-626 4470.

NORMAN'S STEAK'N BURGER - Freshest burgers, steaks, ribs, chicken, fish, salads and more, grilled to perfection. American style food and service. Kosher Jerusalem Rabbinate. 27 Emek Refaim, German Colony. Tel: 02-566 6503.

THE PIE SHOP - TEA & PIE, DON'T PASS ME by, kosher, sweet & savory pies, dairy menu: soups, salads, toasts, specialty drinks. Open 11:00 a.m.-12 midnight. 9 Yoel Salomon (back yard). Tel: 02-624 6712.

RESTAURANT MISHKENOT SHAANANIM - Superb French cuisine for lunch & dinner, 7 days a week. Outstanding wine cellar, elegant setting - spectacular view - private room. Located in Yemin Moshe (below the Guest House). Tel: 02-625 1042.

TIBERIAS

SCOTTISH GUEST HOUSE - Centre of Tiberias. Historic and beautiful buildings in lovely gardens. All rooms private facilities and air conditioning. Special rates during December & January. Tel: 06-6723769, Fax: 06-6790145

ZICHRON YA'ACOV

HOTEL BET MAIMON - A most attractive magical corner and spectacular view. A European country atmosphere, 4/5 rooms with TV & telephone. Kosher restaurant. For further information 06-6290390. E-mail: maimon@pobox.com

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Modano hat-trick sparks Stars past Predators

NASHVILLE (AP) — Mike Modano's second hat-trick in three games, including the winning goal with 4:23 left, gave the league-leading Dallas a 4-3 victory over the expansion Nashville Predators.

Canucks 4, Avalanche 4
Adam Deadmarsh scored his second goal of the game at 7:09 of the third period, lifting host Colorado into a tie.

It was a franchise-record fourth consecutive tie for the Avalanche, who have gone 0-2-4 since their

12-game winning streak ended February 7.

Bruins 5, Senators 2
Rookie right wing Cameron Mann scored Boston's final two goals as the host Bruins snapped Ottawa's four-game winning streak. The Bruins won their second straight game for only the second time this month.

Senators goalie Ron Tugnutt (17-7-5) was chased from the net after the first period when the Bruins scored three goals on 14 shots, taking a 3-1 lead.

McEachern and Magnus Arvedson had the other Ottawa goals.



CLOSE QUARTERS — Canucks Markus Naslund (19) scores against Avalanche goalie Craig Billington in first-period action. The game ended 4-0.

Scholastic hoops tournament set for capital

By HEATHER CHAIT

Jerusalem will host the International Schools Basketball Championships from May 5-12 with 24 countries and 48 teams participating.

The tournament is organized by the International School Sports Federation and brings together youth between the ages of 15-18.

The countries competing are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Turkey.

National school championships were held in these countries, all members of FIBA, to determine the team to be sent to Jerusalem.

Notably absent from this list are the United States, which has not competed in this tournament for the past six years, and Australia.

The draw was held last night at

the Jerusalem Municipality in the presence of sports officials and ambassadors from several competing countries with the teams in both the boys and girls sections being divided into eight pools.

Greece and Turkey, the favorites, will lead Groups A and H in both sections. In the boys' category, Israel will play Italy and Slovakia on the first day, with the girls up against Belgium and Slovakia.

Paul Geimer, President of the Technical Committee of the ISF, predicts a good level of play. "New techniques and coaching methods will make for an interesting tournament," he said. As for the no-show of the US, Geimer explained that the American system lacks a unified federation for school basketball which makes it difficult to select one school team.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert used the ceremony to publicize his personal aim, "Jerusalem will one day soon host the world basketball championships, the real one!"

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Pittsburgh	31	18	7	69	171	151	Nashville	20	32	4	46	138	189
N.Y. Rangers	28	21	7	63	164	165	Chicago	16	35	8	40	131	190
N.Y. Islanders	18	24	7	43	139	178							
Northeast Division							Northwest Division						
Ottawa	32	17	8	72	166	123	Edmonton	22	27	8	52	135	149
Toronto	32	21	4	68	164	172	Calgary	21	28	9	51	151	148
Buffalo	27	19	11	65	156	124	Vancouver	18	32	8	44	144	186
Boston	24	24	9	57	147	134							
Montreal	23	28	8	54	139	154	Pacific Division						
Southeast Division							Dallas	36	10	9	81	163	110
Carolina	27	22	10	64	154	149	Phoenix	29	18	10	68	146	128
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SPORTS

The local scene

Youth ice hockey team in Euro championships

Israel is sending 20 ice hockey players to participate in the European Youth Championships to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, starting February 28. Twelve countries will compete in the tournament (open to 15-17 year-olds), with four sections of three teams each. Israel is in a group with Greece and Belgium.

According to coach Semyon Yakubovich, "the team has a reasonable chance of acquiring itself well. Last month's trip to North America gave the team a sense of reality as to the type of competition they will be facing."

Spector wins on Caesarea links

A 12-under par 134 gave Faith Spector, Uri Aylon, Dudley Kessel and Jules Cuburnek first place in Friday's two best balls stroke play competition at Caesarea. Two strokes behind were David Edel, Shmuel Futerman, Ben Hoffman and George Host while third place on 137 went to Harold Stutzen, Lenny Landes and Mati and Malka Gori.

Saturday's K-C two best balls stableford competition was won by Aviv Levi, Muli Timor and Hushman Yazdani and Ali Nakjavani from Haifa's Bahai community with 79 points. In second place with 78 points were Mike Mannor, Sefi Halfon, Dennis Goldstein and Stutzen. Cuburnek had the day's best individual score, a one over par.

Carrera helps Netanya to rugby victory

With two teams beset with squad problems, only one match of the weekend's rugby league took to the field.

Beersheba and Ra'anana found themselves forced to cancel their scheduled games but league leaders Hapoel Netanya forged ahead, beating Rishon LeZion 16-5. Dion Carrera and Sasha Volkov were the respective try scorers for Netanya and Rishon while fullback Darren Pincus converted the try and added three penalties of his own to swell the Netanya scorecard.

This weekend the second training session of the senior national team will be held at Pardes Hanna, putting the league games on hold.

Capital cyclists want bike paths

"We're not stopping the traffic - we are the traffic" say cyclists from Jerusalem for Bicycles.

As on the last Friday of every month, the group will gather tomorrow at 1 pm in front of the Mashbir for their Critical Mass ride in the downtown area. The movement is picking up speed around the country - monthly CM rides are now held in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Ashkelon and Rishon LeZion.

The Jerusalem branch is pressing for the municipality to institute bicycle paths and will be making an all-out effort so that this month's ride will bring together the largest number of two-wheelers yet in the capital.

Compiled by Heather Chait

Tennis pro killed in car accident

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) - Menno Oosting, a professional tennis player from the Netherlands, was killed in a car accident on Monday night, the ATP Tour said.

According to the player's association, Oosting, 34, was returning home from a tournament in Cherbourg, France, when his car struck a light pole around midnight in Turnhout, Belgium. It was raining at the time of the accident.

Oosting was about 30 minutes from his hometown of Son, the Netherlands, near Eindhoven, when he crashed.

"When Dutch tennis came up in the early '80s, he was one of four guys who helped put tennis on the map in the country," Dutch Davis Cup captain Michiel Schapers, a long-time friend of Oosting, said Tuesday in a statement.

Oosting played on the Dutch Davis Cup team from 1983-88, compiling a 7-4 record, including 5-3 in singles. He reached a career-high ranking of No. 72 in singles in 1988 and No. 20 in doubles in 1995.

He won the French Open mixed doubles title in 1994 with Kristie Boogert.

Mourning, Hardaway topple Wizards



WASHINGTON (AP) - Alonzo Mourning had 29 points and 12 rebounds, while Tim Hardaway, who put on a great third-quarter shooting duel with Mitch Richmond, scored 20 as the Miami Heat beat the Washington Wizards, 96-80 for their sixth straight victory.

Mourning, averaging 26 points in 20 regular-season games against Washington, took over late in the third quarter, scoring back-to-back baskets before rejecting Tracy Murray's jumper at the buzzer. The 8-0 spurt at the end of the period gave the Heat the lead for good at 70-63.

Pistons 106, Raptors 80 Joe Dumars returned to host Detroit's lineup with 16 points and five assists. Dumars, playing in his 14th and final season, missed four games with a strained hamstring.

Knicks 82, Nets 74 Patrick Ewing had 20 points, 11 rebounds and seven blocked shots and the Knicks used their league-leading defense to hold visiting New Jersey to 29 percent shooting.

Rockets 98, SuperSonics 86 Rookie Cuttino Mobley scored

13 of his career-high 19 points in a tense fourth quarter as Houston won at home.

Mavericks 89, Hawks 85 Michael Finley scored six points in the final 81 seconds as the Mavericks snapped a four-game losing streak to Atlanta and won at home for the first time this season.

Bucks 90, Bulls 88 Glenn Robinson's dunk with four seconds left sealed the victory for visiting Milwaukee, who blew a 13-point lead and barely held off the Bulls. It was the fifth straight loss at home for the Bulls (2-9), who were playing their third game in three nights.

Warriors 94, Clippers 89 I Bimbo Coles hit a pair of 20-foot jumpers to draw visiting Golden State even in the closing moments, then added four free throws in the last 18 seconds.

Coles finished with 15 points for Golden State, winner of five of its last six after an 0-5 start.

Grizzlies 93, Lakers 83 A night after losing 117-113 in overtime to Denver, the visiting Lakers dropped their third game in as many days. The Grizzlies beat the Lakers for the first time in franchise history, after going 0-12. Shafer Abdur-Rahim scored seven of his game-high 28 points in the final 1:39 to seal the win.

Van Exel: 'It depends upon Rodman's attitude'

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Dennis Rodman signed a one-year contract with the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday and was slated to participate in a limited practice session yesterday before attending the Grammy Awards with his wife, actress Carmen Electra.

Rodman, who turns 38 in May, is expected to begin his Los Angeles basketball tenure tomorrow night against the Los Angeles Clippers at the Forum.

Meanwhile, former Lakers point guard Nick Van Exel believes his former team could be making a mistake by adding Rodman.

Of course, Van Exel, who was traded to the Denver Nuggets on draft day last summer after five controversial seasons with the Lakers, might not be the most objective observer.

"He (Lakers coach Del Harris) thought I was a problem? I want to see Dennis go over there personally," Van Exel said after helping the Nuggets beat the Lakers 117-113 in overtime Monday night in Denver for only their second victory of the season.

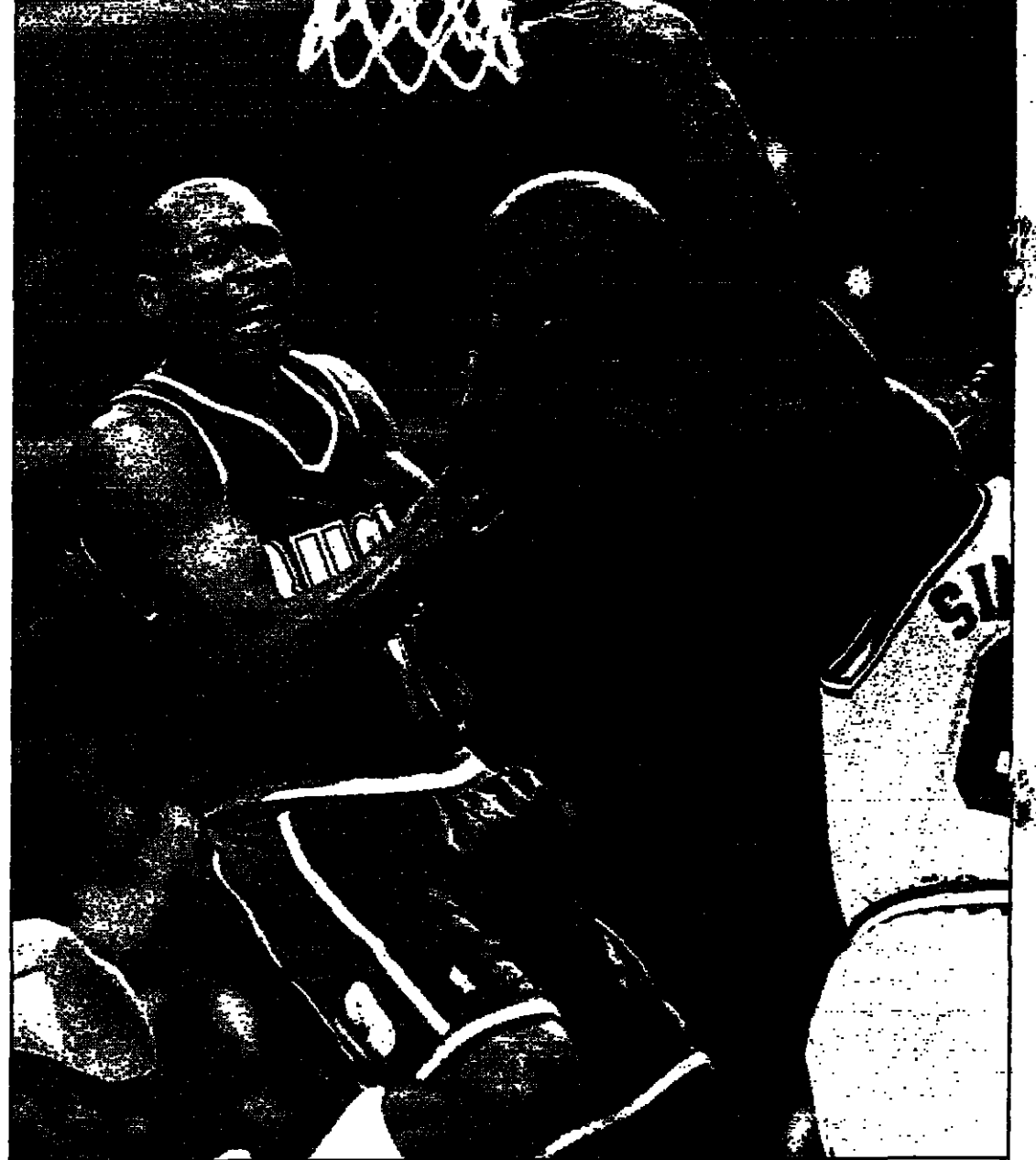
"I want to see how Del handles it. ... My honest opinion is, it depends on Dennis Rodman's attitude," Van Exel said. "If he comes in with his great rebounding, the intensity he always brings to the game, he's going to be great for that team. If he comes in with all his antics and just thinking about Dennis Rodman the show, he's going to kill that team."

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	7	2	.778	—
Miami	7	3	.700	1 1/2
New York	7	3	.700	1 1/2
Philadelphia	5	5	.500	3 1/2
Washington	4	5	.444	4 1/2
Boston	3	5	.375	4 1/2
New Jersey	2	8	.200	6 1/2
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	7	3	.700	—
Milwaukee	6	3	.667	1 1/2
Cleveland	5	4	.556	2 1/2
Atlanta	5	4	.556	2 1/2
Detroit	5	4	.556	2 1/2
Toronto	3	6	.333	3 1/2
Chicago	2	9	.182	5 1/2
Charlotte	1	7	.125	5 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	9	1	.900	—
Minnesota	8	2	.800	1 1/2
Houston	7	4	.636	2 1/2
San Antonio	5	6	.455	4 1/2
Vancouver	4	6	.400	5 1/2
Dallas	3	9	.250	7 1/2
Denver	2	8	.200	7 1/2
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	8	2	.750	—
Seattle	7	3	.700	1 1/2
Phoenix	6	4	.600	2 1/2
L.A. Lakers	6	4	.600	2 1/2
Sacramento	5	5	.500	3 1/2
Golden State	5	6	.455	3 1/2
L.A. Clippers	0	9	.000	6 1/2



Backs forward Glenn Robinson goes up for two as Bulls' Dickey Simpkins defends. Milwaukee won 90-88.

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	7	2	.778	—
Miami	7	3	.700	1 1/2
New York	7	3	.700	1 1/2
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Chicago	2	9	.182	5 1/2
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Spotlight on Big Mac, La Russa's 'racism'

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) - Just in case Mark McGwire forgot what it was like, the spotlights are back on baseball's home run king.

He didn't even have to hit a home run. Just an announcement of his first news conference of the spring was enough to draw a mob today to the St. Louis Cardinals' training camp here.

"The notoriety he's gained, people want a piece of him," Cardinals general manager Walt Jocketty said Tuesday. "You'd be surprised at the unbelievable requests we get, from media and fans. They don't understand."

McGwire arrived in camp Monday, and his only misstep came when he missed a team party at a local restaurant to view his *Mad About You* episode. He apparently forgot about the back entrance the Cardinals had waiting for him and tried to go in the front door. When he saw TV cameras and fans waiting, McGwire turned around.

Cardinals camp was buzzing Tuesday, and McGwire didn't have anything to do with it. Former Cardinals outfielder Ron Gant, still angry at Tony La Russa, accused the St. Louis manager of racism, saying he treated black players differently.

"Rickey Henderson didn't like him. Royce Clayton didn't like him," Gant said in Clearwater, Florida. "He treated Ozzie Smith like dirt. Brian Jordan didn't like him. I don't know too many people who did like him."

When asked if there was any significance that all the players he mentioned were black, Gant responded: "Yeah, there is. If I'm not mistaken, I heard a month after the season they were trying to trade Ray (Lankford), too. You do the math."

"That's called unforgivable," La Russa said. "That's lower than cheap. But I'm not going to sue him. I'll turn the page."

Gant, traded to Philadelphia during the offseason, said that "if he can't control you as a player, if



HEAVY LUMBER - Cardinals' Mark McGwire gets ready to take batting practice.

you're not a 'yes' player, he doesn't want you. If you have your own opinions, he doesn't want you."

La Russa wondered what else Gant accused him of. "Did he say anything about me kicking animals or robbing old ladies?" the manager said.

La Russa also fired back about Gant's lack of production. Gant struck out 162 times in 1997 and slumped again last season, need-

ing a strong September to end up at .240 with 26 homers and 67 RBIs. In 382 games with the Cardinals during three seasons, he fanned 352 times.

"It was whiff, whiff, whiff," La Russa said. "I really hope he goes to Philly and whiffs for them like he whiffed for us, and we'll see what excuse he makes."

The biggest nicks was in Tampa, where Jose Canseco failed to show on the voluntary reporting date for



WORKING OUT THE KINKS - Yankees DH and 1B Chili Davis bobbles a ball during infield practice.

the Devil Rays. The mandatory date isn't until March 2.

"Yeah, it's irritating a little bit because he's such a big cog of the wheel," general manager Chuck LaMar said. "Jose's going to show up when Jose's ready. And I guess that's what bothers me the most."

"If it was injury or visa problems or personal problems or irritation over a contract or a trade that just materialized, then that's

one thing. But just to premeditatedly not show up for a couple of days - if that's the case - is a different story."

At Fort Myers, the focus was on Boston shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, the undisputed team star following the departure of Mo Vaughn to Anaheim.

"I don't think anybody can take Mo's spot," Garciaparra said. "Everybody has the same personality they had."

Woods gears for first Match Play

CARLSBAD (AP) - With the flash of a smile, Tiger Woods spoke volumes about his anticipation of seeing Nick Faldo on the first tee and anyone else who may follow over the next few days of golf's March Match Play Championship.

With one swing of the club, he showed why the smile isn't for show.

"Give me the driver," he said to Bryon Bell, a childhood friend who is caddy for him this week. "I've got a bet to settle." His eyes locked on a white truck beyond the mesh net at the back end of the driving range. Woods swung with all his might and watched the ball arc majestically into the blue skies north of San Diego and disappear over the fence.

"Give me another one," he said. This one sailed so far that no one was exactly sure where it landed - if it ever did. Woods let out an approving laugh, put his money in his pocket and walked off to the clubhouse.

"I have always enjoyed playing one-on-one," Woods said. "I have always enjoyed having a chance when a tournament comes down to a one-on-one situation. I love the feeling of that. In this sport, we don't get that chance very often."

The Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship, which began yesterday with the top 64 players in the world, brings match play back as an official event for the first time since the two-year Tucson experiment ended in 1985.

Only this will never be confused for Tucson or any other regular stop on any of the five tours behind the \$5 million World Golf Championships.

Faldo vs. Woods. "Knowing that you have got to go head-to-head with Nick Faldo ... that gets me pretty fired up," Woods said. "Doesn't matter what golf course I'm playing. I'll be excited." Woods hasn't looked this relaxed, hasn't smiled this wide

since that Saturday afternoon at Augusta National two years ago when he was well on his way to record, runaway victory in the Masters.

Woods is considered one of the best in America at match play, particularly since he won the US Amateur three years in a row.

He also beat Greg Norman 1-up in a meaningless singles match in the Presidents Cup in December.

And the past month has offered even more evidence why Woods has been gearing up for the Match Play Championship. He has played the past four weeks and showed that he's not quite ready to yield his No. 1 ranking to David Duval.

Match Play Pairing

Upper Bracket

Tiger Woods vs. Nick Faldo, Tom Watson vs. Bob Tway, Jesper Parnevik vs. Craig Parry, Payne Stewart vs. Stewart Cink, Vijay Singh vs. Rocco Mediate, Bernhard Langer vs. Brad Faxon, Nick Price vs. Frankie Marino, Jeff Maggert vs. Fred Funk, David Love III vs. Steve Pate, Jeff Sluman vs. Brandt Jobe, Fred Couples vs. Dudley Hart, Scott Hoch vs. Ian Woosnam, Lee Westwood vs. Eduardo Romero, Greg Norman vs. John Cook, Phil Mickelson vs. Joe Ozaki, Lee Janzen vs. Glen Day.

Lower Bracket

David Duval vs. Stephen Leapey, Stuart Appleby vs. Bill Glasson, Darren Clarke vs. Andrew Magee, Brian Watts vs. Thomas Bjorn, Ernie Els vs. Paul Azinger, Hal Sutton vs. Loren Roberts, Justin Leonard vs. Miguel Angel Jimenez, Steve Stricker vs. Shigeki Maruyama, Mark O'Meara vs. Michael Bradley, Jose Maria Olazabal vs. Billy Mayfair, Steve Elkington vs. Steve Jones, Tom Lehman vs. Scott Verplank, Colin Montgomerie vs. Craig Stadler, John Huston vs. Bob Estes, Jim Furyk vs. Patrik Sjöland, Mark Calcavecchia vs. Carlos Franco.

SHOWING (6)

1000s
22:45 Caravaggio: Painter and Murderer (f)
23:00 Open University: American Cinema: Greek Fire; Connection
1:40 World Discoveries (f)
2:10 Great Crimes and Trials (f)
2:35 Beyond 2000 (f)

10:30 Strabinsky (f)
10:50 On Hawaii's Giant Wave (f)
11:30 Mystery of the Inca Murders (f)
10:00 Beeman - Killer bees in Panama
20:30 Hulesen's Alligators - the alligators of Florida
21:00 Colony Z - ethnology

MOVIES

ogist; Painter	1910 On Human's Giant Wave (f)	6:30 CNN This Morning	10:30 Wallpapers
University;	1920 Mystery of the Incas	6:30 CNN This Morning	10:30 Live Soccer - Italy
erme; Greek	Murphy (f)	6:30 CNN This Morning	10:30 Soccer - Belgium
tion	20:30 Superman - killer bees in Panama	6:30 World Sport	22:30 Live Soccer - Yugoslavia vs Spain
Scavories (f)	20:30 Superman - killer bees in Panama	10:30 Showbiz Today	22:30 Soccer - The Netherlands vs Croatia
Primes and	20:30 Nuisance Alligators - the alligators of Florida	11:00 Larry King (f)	00:00 Athletics
20000 (f)	21:30 Colony 2 - ethnology	22:30 World Sport	1:00 Soccer
		12:15 American Edition	1:30 Motors
		12:30 Biz, Aale	12:30 Sports

DOWN

1 Court card (5)
2 Unit of electrical resistance (3)
3 Citrus fruit (6)
4 Hails (7)
5 Paper-shop (9)
6 Eternal (7)
7 Nurse god (4)
8 Pedestrian safety rules (4,5)
9 Quantities (7)
10 Voter (7)
11 _____ honorable: public apology (6)
12 Amphibian (4)
13 Younger son (5)
14 _____ Khan (3)

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9 **K** **J** **9**
9 **J** **A** **7**

Boston pop



Page 17

Losin' Lakers



Page 18

Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

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ISRAEL

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ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Friday
Haifa	15/5	16/5
Tel Aviv	18/6	19/6
Jerusalem	15/4	16/4
Beer Sheva	17/4	18/4
Dead Sea	20/5	21/5

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

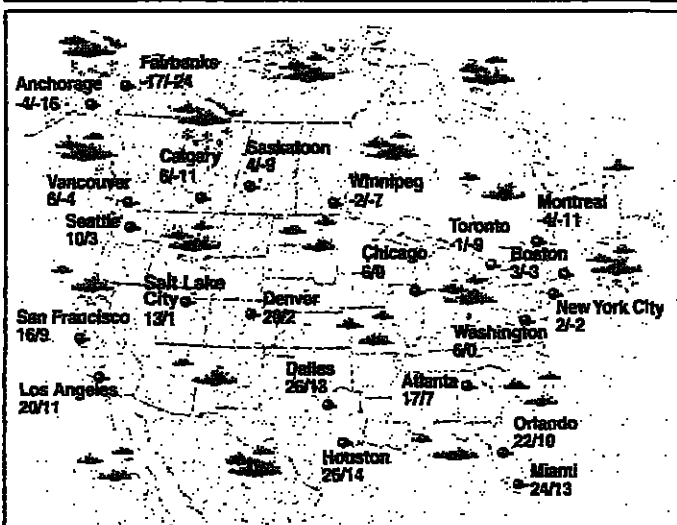
City	Today	Friday
Amsterdam	14/5	15/5
Beijing	14/5	15/5
Berlin	14/5	15/5
Buenos Aires	14/5	15/5
Chicago	14/5	15/5
Frankfurt	14/5	15/5
Hong Kong	14/5	15/5
Johannesburg	14/5	15/5
London	14/5	15/5
Los Angeles	14/5	15/5
Moscow	14/5	15/5
Montreal	14/5	15/5
New York	14/5	15/5
Paris	14/5	15/5
Peking	14/5	15/5
Rio de Janeiro	14/5	15/5
Rome	14/5	15/5
Sydney	14/5	15/5
Tokyo	14/5	15/5
Toronto	14/5	15/5
Washington	14/5	15/5
Zurich	14/5	15/5

Israel: Mixed clouds and sun north today with a shower in the heights. Sunny across the south. Highs 12-22. Lows 0-10.

MOON PHASES

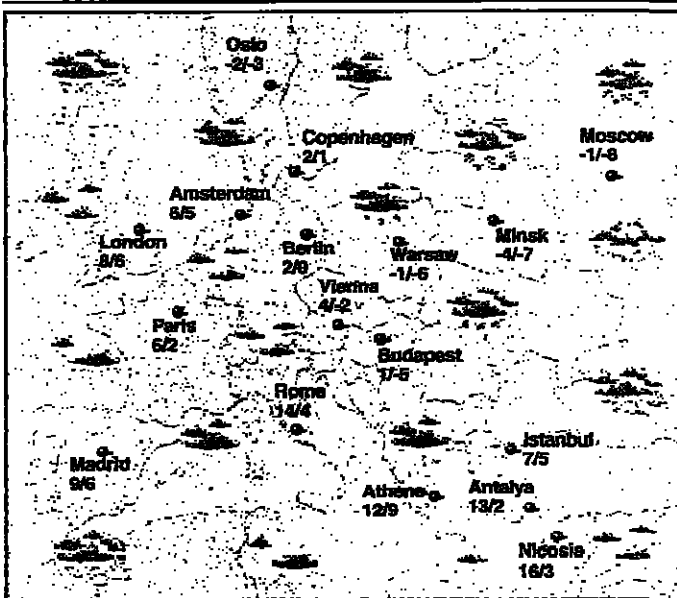
Full	Last	New	First
Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

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ELWALTN
Weekends

Israel stroll to 2-0 win over Latvia

By ORI LEWIS

A solid first half by Israel was enough for the host team to overcome Latvia by 2-0 in a friendly soccer international at Teddy Stadium last night.

The Latvians had difficulty matching the pace of Israel in the first 45 minutes with Haim Revivo marshalling the midfield with a calm assuredness and displaying some excellent ball distribution. Revivo was the first to have a go at the Latvian goal when his shot went over the bar after 12 minutes. Eleven minutes later he netted Israel's first goal when a high cross from the left by Tal Banin found him unmarked on the right corner of the box. He chested the ball down and drilled it between the legs of goalkeeper Aleksandrs Kolinko's and into the net.

Four minutes later, Revivo turned provider when he found striker Ronen Harazi with his back to the goal. Harazi reiterated Israel's dominance when he turned and netted the ball, which took a deflection off Oleg Blagoderzins.

Revivo might have added another goal two minutes later as Israel swept all in their path, but he shot straight at Kolinko from close range.

Latvia came closest to scoring in the 31st minute when captain Vladimir Babicevs hit a thunderous free kick from 20 meters which rebounded off Nir Davidovich's right post.

The second half was only a pale imitation of the first as Israel coach Shlomo Scharf played all eight substitutes. Israel used the match as preparation for the upcoming European Championship qualifying Group 5 clash with Cyprus at the National Stadium on March 28. There were only two shots at goal in the second half as the 6,000 crowd preferred to amuse itself with firecrackers in the stands.

I was much more pleased with our first-half performance," said Scharf. "I was particularly happy with Tal Banin. It was very important to see him back at full fitness and in the side," he added.

Banin, Israel's captain, who plays for Italian Serie B side Brescia, has recently returned to full fitness and was a last-minute



THREADING THE NEEDLE - Israel's Haim Revivo (r) maneuvers between two Latvia defenders. Revivo scored Israel's first goal in the 2-0 win at Teddy Stadium last night.

addition to the squad after arriving from Italy late on Tuesday. He played the full 90 minutes.

The match was played in a generally sporting manner, but the Latvians, who were out for

revenge after the 5-1 drubbing Israel handed them in Riga last May came up second best. They were far from the potential threat which Israel might have expected following their 3-1 away win over

Norway and 1-0 home victory over Georgia in Euro 2000 qualifying this season.

On last night's performance it is hard to understand just how they could have achieved those results.

They lacked any playmaking skills in midfield and even their star player, Marius Pahars, who is about to move to Southampton, failed to shine while his future manager, Dave Jones, watched in the stands.

'Waugh and Warne should have been suspended'

MELBOURNE (AP) - Australians Shane Warne and Mark Waugh should have been suspended for their involvement with an illegal Indian bookmaker, according to an inquiry called by the Australian Cricket Board.

Waugh and Warne were fined after admitting selling pitch and weather information to an Indian bookie they met on a tour of Sri Lanka in 1994.

The fines were kept secret by the ACB, a move criticized by its own bribery inquiry yesterday.

Lawyer Rob O'Regan, who undertook the two-month inquiry for the ACB, said the board should have made the fines public at the time and should have suspended the pair.

"I'm pleased to report never did I hear any suggestion of match-fixing or a player failing to play on his merits," O'Regan said.

ACB chief executive Mal Speed, who joined the board after the fines were handed down, admitted it had been too lenient. "With hindsight I think we can look back on these penalties and say yes, perhaps they should have been harsher penalties," Speed said.

Waugh and Warne have accused former Pakistan captain Salim Malik of offering them bribes to throw a match on the 1994 tour of Pakistan.

O'Regan said he was puzzled at how the ACB did not link Waugh and Warne's involvement with the Indian bookmaker to the Malik bribery scandal.

"I came to the conclusion that there was a distinct possibility of a connection between the two matters," O'Regan said. "I don't know how the ACB concluded they were separate." O'Regan said he interviewed 64 people and felt his report was conclusive.

In handing down his findings, he said Waugh and Warne had lamentably failed to set the sort of example one might expect from senior players.

"I do not think it is possible to explain their conduct

away as the result of merely naivety or stupidity," wrote O'Regan.

"They must have known that it is wrong to accept money from and supply information to, a bookmaker whom they also knew as someone who bet on cricket."

The report also revealed that Waugh was warned by an unnamed senior teammate in 1994 to stop providing information to a bookmaker yet continued to do so until 1995.

Australian skipper Allan Border was approached by an ex-Pakistani cricketer during the 1993 Ashes tour in England and told both he and the team would be financially looked after if it lost the sixth Test, which it did.

Border rejected the approach but failed to tell team management - manager Des Rundle learned of the approach only during the inquiry.

The report recommended no further action be taken against Waugh and Warne.

Tour selectors rapped for all-white teams

South Africa's touring team selectors in New Zealand have been criticized by their cricket chiefs in Johannesburg for fielding two all-white sides.

The South African teams for limited overs internationals in Christchurch and Auckland last Wednesday and Saturday did not include players of color, as stipulated in the United Cricket Board of South Africa's new selection guidelines.

"Owing to a misunderstanding, the Board's policy was not complied with, to the consternation of the UCB," said a statement signed by UCB president Ray White.

Asian Test Championship

India were 351 for three at the close on the first day of their Asian Test Championship match against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday.

Spain's height too much for national hoopsters

By ELI GROWER

Size does matter. The National Basketball team gave a good overall effort, but total domination in the paint, there were several positive things to come out of last night's game. First of all, there is no question that the Israeli backcourt can compete with Europe's finest. Playing without starters Oded Katash and Doron Sheffer - who are nursing minor injuries - Guy Goodes and Amir Katz stepped in and didn't miss a beat. Goodes scored Israel's first eight points and 12 overall, displaying an offensive aggressiveness that has been sorely absent in recent years. And Katz, once again, silenced his critics who said he couldn't compete at the top European level, by tallying 16 second-half points on 4-of-7 three-point shooting.

Mull Katzur's squad didn't panic either. Despite weathering separate 13-0 and 11-0 runs in the first half, the Israelis battled back to the point where they were only down 69-63 with 40 seconds remaining. Despite playing a road game against a quality opponent without its starting backcourt, the Israelis refused to fold and turned what could have been a laughing into a relatively close contest.

Unfortunately, for the Israelis, heart isn't counted in height, and unless something drastic happens, Israel can look forward to a summer in France replete with respectable losses like last night's.

In addition, the Spaniards were able to either score inside, or at least earn a trip to the charity stripe with regularity. Whenever the Spanish squad needed to score, it pushed the ball inside, to either Roberto Duenas (16 points) or Alfonso Reyes, who tallied 10 points. The twin towers forced the significantly smaller Israelis to collapse their defense, opening up numerous wide-open, high-percentage shots for the Spanish perimeter players.

The loss drops the Israelis to 6-3 in the European Championships Qualifiers, while Spain improved to a perfect 9-0. Both teams have

already clinched spots in the Championships, to take place in France in July.

Aside from Israel's inferiority in the paint, there were several positive things to come out of last night's game. First of all, there is no question that the Israeli backcourt can compete with Europe's finest. Playing without starters Oded Katash and Doron Sheffer - who are nursing minor injuries - Guy Goodes and Amir Katz stepped in and didn't miss a beat. Goodes scored Israel's first eight points and 12 overall, displaying an offensive aggressiveness that has been sorely absent in recent years. And Katz, once again, silenced his critics who said he couldn't compete at the top European level, by tallying 16 second-half points on 4-of-7 three-point shooting.

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Spurs, Magpies win FA Cup replays

LONDON (AP) - Two goals in eight minutes by Darren Anderton and David Ginola steered Tottenham into the quarterfinal of the FA Cup yesterday in a 2-0 victory over Leeds United.

England winger Anderton fired Spurs ahead in the 60th minute of Wednesday's fifth round replay at White Hart Lane and Ginola added the second in the 68th. The two teams had tied 1-1 at Elland Road 11 days ago.

Spurs visit division one Barnsley for a place in the FA Cup semifinal.

In other fifth round replays, Newcastle, last season's losing finalist, triumphed 1-0 at Blackburn, and Derby came from

behind to down Division One Huddersfield 3-1 at Pride Park.

French forward Louis Saha, starting in place of stricken Alan Shearer, fired Newcastle's winner at Ewood Park and Rudi Gullit's team will face Everton in the quarterfinal.

Chris Bech gave Huddersfield a surprise 15th-minute lead against Derby, but the home team hit back with a 30-yard strike by veteran defender Tony Dorigo in the 34th and two goals by Francesco Balzano in the 73rd and 82nd.

Revised quarter-final draw: Saturday, March 6: Newcastle United v. Everton, Barnsley v. Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal v. Derby County, Saturday, March 7: Manchester United v. Chelsea.